

# Bavarian News

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Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Vilseck, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Wuerzburg

April 4, 2007

## Purchase ticket before board on train

### Violators receive 40 Euro fine

by ADRIANE FOSS  
Editor

Passengers on Germany's largest train system are now required to purchase their tickets before boarding.

Those who don't could end up with a 40 Euro fine, according to Die Bahn conductor and human resources employee Franz Popp.

"The main reason for the enforcement," explained Popp "is (that) we made a survey and

found out from our customers that they want more services on the train—info on how to travel, special prices, (etc)."

He said conductors spend too much time selling tickets on the train, which takes away from other customer service issues that were addressed in the survey.

Popp said the policy to purchase tickets before boarding isn't a new one, but it will be much more heavily enforced now in order to free up train personnel who need to assist passengers with other customer service issues.

The enforcement is also expected to save Die Bahn millions of Euro a year. Popp said about 3 to 5 percent of passengers nationwide skip out on paying for train tickets by simply boarding and avoiding the conductor. At certain times and

locations, "especially from Weiden to Nuremberg on nights and weekends", the number of fraudulent passengers can be as high as 40-50 percent, said Popp.

"This decreases money (that could be used) for customer services—nicer trains, nicer services, (hiring) more conductors who speak English," said Popp.

"You must enter the train with a valid ticket. There are only a few (exceptions) why you can't," he said.

Popp explained that if a ticket machine is broken and passengers are unable to purchase a ticket before boarding, they should purchase one from the conductor upon entering the train.

"You have to go straight to the conductor  
See TRAIN page 23



Photo by Franz Zeilmann

**As of Sunday, all passengers must purchase train tickets before boarding to avoid a \$40 Euro fine.**

## Make your active service count toward retirement

by JODI WARD  
Staff writer

Soldiers who leave the Army and enter the civil service system must "purchase" their active duty military time in order for it to count toward their civil service retirement.

Public Law 97-253, dated Sept. 8, 1982, provides federal employees the opportunity to buy into the civil service retirement fund for military service performed after 1956.

The law divides employees into two groups—those covered by the Civil Service Retirement System prior

to Oct. 1, 1982, and those who first became subject to Civil Service Retirement System deductions after Oct. 1, 1982.

Those in the latter group must pay the deposit to receive credit for military service in their CSRS or Federal Employee Retirement System annuity.

Those covered by CSRS prior to Oct. 1, 1982, may choose not to pay the deposit and still receive credit for their service in their annuities. But if they are eligible for Social Security benefits they will lose credit for military service in their CSRS annuities

and their annuities will be reduced.

If they pay the deposit, they will receive credit for their military service under both CSRS and Social Security.

Deputy Chief of Staff and Executive Secretariat of the Office of Personnel Management, Robert Lowe, said that under the CSRS, the deposit is 7 percent of the military basic pay for the period of service.

Under the newer Federal Employees' Retirement System that covers most current federal employees, the deposit is 3 percent of the military basic pay for the period of service.

"This covers only a small fraction of the value of the service credit," said Lowe.

He also said that it is incorrect to view this as buying back one's years of service toward retirement because "the term 'buy back' incorrectly implies that individuals are being required to pay a second time for something they once possessed, and that is not the case."

Although military service time is automatically considered for accrual of personal leave days, etc., the same is not true for retirement. Lowe, however, insists that practice is fair

and is actually very generous.

"Individuals generally receive a benefit far in excess of the required deposit," he said.

Under this public policy, a new civilian employee with prior active duty service has two full years to pay their deposit. After that, the government begins charging interest on the cost to buy back their years of service to count towards retirement.

Because of this, Lowe said it is best to take care of the issue when first entering a new civilian position. Making a deposit early helps to avoid

See AVOID page 23

## Vilseck NCO finds 'life' after near-death

Story and photo by JODI WARD  
Staff writer

On Feb. 26, 2005, a single bullet fell from the Iraqi sky, forever changing the life of one Vilseck resident. And although this bullet took his short term memory, it gave Sgt. 1st Class Michael LaRue a new outlook on how he wants to live his life.

LaRue, an NCOIC for the 1-2<sup>d</sup> Stryker Cavalry Regiment's field feeding team, wears the fateful bullet around his neck as a reminder

of that life-changing day. On Jan. 23 he was awarded the Purple Heart, which he can wear as yet another reminder of that day.

On Nov. 15, 2004, LaRue deployed to meet up with the 201<sup>st</sup> Forward Support Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division at Camp War Horse in Baqubah, Iraq. The 201<sup>st</sup> had deployed earlier that year.

Four months in, and just days away

from returning home, LaRue was "safe" on the Forward Operating Base, inside a transition tent, prepping for the convoy to Kuwait the following morning.

"I was getting ready to go," he said. "I was getting all the serial numbers for the weapons, the (night vision goggles), any sensitive items we were taking on the convoy to Kuwait. I was

getting ready to roll, he said.

That's when an AK-47 7.62 bullet sliced through the top of his tent.

"When it first happened, I was kind of

mad because I thought someone was screwing around, throwing rocks or whatever," said LaRue.

"I was knocked to my knees and was looking for the 'rock' when I saw a pool of blood forming."

LaRue was hit in the upper right quadrant of his skull. According to his surgeon, if the bullet had pierced him one inch over and one inch to the rear, LaRue would likely not have survived.

"He told me I'd be talking to God instead of talking to him, LaRue recalled.

LaRue explained that because the bullet didn't penetrate the skull, but rather "put a nasty groove in it," he was treated and monitored for brain damage and memory loss at the FOB. He was flown back to Germany two days later.

"To this day, I don't have a short term memory," he said. "If you tell me something now, two minutes later I can tell you what you said, but if you ask

## Soldiers spur love of reading



From the back of a Stryker, Pfc. Garry Sprinkle of 4-2SCR HHT, reads to Jill Timerwilke's first grade class March 21 as part of Vilseck Elementary's month-long Red Hot Readers. RHR aims to instill a love of reading in students.

Staff photo by Jodi Ward

## Graf mourns the loss of friend, colleague

Staff report

Memorial services were held for a U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr civilian employee who died March 24 from injuries suffered when the privately owned vehicle he was driving collided with another POV near the town of Ens Dorf on the B2165 at 12:48 p.m.

Tony Brown, 41, is a U.S. Army veteran and was employed as the fitness specialist at the Rose Barracks Fitness Center at Vilseck.

U.S. military police, German Polizei, and fire department and medical personnel responded to the scene of the accident.

German and U.S. military police officials are investigating the accident. Brown and the driver of the other vehicle, a local national, were pronounced dead at the scene by a German emergency doctor.

Family and friends attended a memorial service for Brown Monday at 6 p.m. at the funeral home Rössl at Süß, Frohnhoferstr. 8.

The community also attended the Tuesday funeral at 2 p.m. at the City of Vilseck cemetery, Dr. Gräßmannstrasse.

Brown is survived by his three children—Patrick A. Brown, age 18; Jessica S. Brown, age 16; and Kevin L. Stigler, age 15 months.



LaRue was awarded the Purple Heart Jan. 23.

See LARUE page 23



## Q&amp;A

What do *you* do to relieve *stress* in your life?



**Carol Wesnoski**  
"Planting in the garden relieves my stress."

**Sgt. Jeffery Clemens**  
"Hanging out with my kids, it's great. We have fun playing together."



**Claudia O'Meara**  
"Sleeping. It's the most relaxing thing one can do."

**Spc. Carlo Hodil**  
"I try and get a lot of sleep, take a few minutes for myself to clear my head."



**Karin Ammende**  
"I don't have stress. It's self-made. If I do have stress, it's because I'm thinking wrong, so I change my thinking and the stress goes away."

**Spc. Stephen Ruthrauff**  
"I usually just start yelling at people. It relieves my stress right away!"



**Rachel Patrick**  
"I do exercise DVDs at home. Afterwards I'm so tired I can't think anymore."

**Kaisa Chiappelli**  
"Church - that's how I relieve my stress. I'm more of a believer since a traumatic injury a while back."



# Re-registration for school mandatory, safety re-emphasized

Many of you have probably noticed that your copy of the Bavarian News is thicker than normal. As part of the re-organization of Europe, we welcome USAG Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Bamberg to our community paper.

Our intent is to provide those communities space to talk about their part of Germany. So I guess we really are the Bavarian News now. Off to the issues.

## The Flu

For anyone who has spent time in the schools recently, it's apparent many children have been home suffering from flu-like symptoms or worse - at school, ill, and passing the symptoms around. Seemingly this year we have had an increase in the winter flu "bug" in the community.

Symptoms of this viral infection include headache, fever, cough, congestion, sneezing, stomach ache, fatigue, nausea, diarrhea and/or sore throat.

The best advice is that children and adults who are sick should stay home until they are not sick anymore. Sending children and adults to school or work helps spread the illness around.

The infection is self-limiting and transient and is not causing serious illness. Adults and children recover with home treatment.

Because it is a viral infection, antibiotics do

not help. The recommended treatment is rest at home, fluids, and over-the-counter medicine for fever.

Symptoms can last up to 10 days. If symptoms last more than 10 days or the patient seems very ill, please contact the health clinics or local health care providers for additional guidance.

## School Registration

Believe it or not, you must re-register for school every year when overseas. The purpose of this registration is two fold. With 12 schools closing in DODDS- Europe this year and population moving to our community, we must know as close as possible the number of students for AY 07-08 for both teachers and if needed, additional classroom space.

In fact, it is just as important if you decide to take your children out of DODDs next year that you inform us so our estimates are as close to exact as possible.

Equally important, we must update contact information. Many personnel were new last year and did not have final addresses and phone numbers. This registration or re-registration will ensure DODDS knows how to get a hold of you if required. Pay attention to the community bulletin and/or school notices for dates and time to register or re-register.

## Emergency Relief

The community did an outstanding job with the Combined Federal Campaign this year. With donations of more than \$200,000 we more than doubled our pledges as compared to last year.

Now it is time for Army Emergency Relief. AER is the only other authorized large donations program the Army sponsors. Since AER was established in 1942, it has helped more than three million Soldiers and family members with more than \$992 million worth of grants and loans.

Last year more than 50,000 people received more than \$49 million in loans and grants. Locally we received 400 percent more than we donated. The AER fund campaign is running from March 1 through May 31. All units should contact Christine Nunez at DSN 475-8432 or e-mail: [christine.nunez@eur.army.mil](mailto:christine.nunez@eur.army.mil) to establish unit representatives, receive forms, and have all questions answered.

The goal again remains 100 percent of eligible participants given the opportunity to contribute. Please be generous to this worthy cause - Soldiers and civilians helping other Soldiers.

This weekend, the garrison suffered another tragedy as I had an employee killed in a car accident. The weather was poor, there was speed involved, and two people lost their lives. Statistics are just that: statistics. But we have lost two people in less than one month.

Slow down, wear your safety belts, and don't even think about drinking any alcohol if you are driving. **STAY SAFE!**

*Col. Brian T. Boyle*  
*Commander, U.S. Army*  
*Garrison Grafenwoehr*

# Calm under pressure to thank for freedoms



**JACEY ECKHART**  
*On the Homefront*

Mom called me to tell me about their drive and the hotel and that my dad had saved someone's life.

"Say that again, Mom," I said, pressing the phone closer to one ear, my palm to the other.

Mom told me how she and my father were keeping an eye on the grandchildren while they played in the crowded hotel pool. Suddenly, a little boy, maybe 6-years old, was pulled from the bottom. Blue.

"I told your dad to call 911," Mom said. "But he stood right up and went over there."

My father asked if the ambulance had already been called.

It had. The parents were only holding the child. People stood watching.

My dad asked if they had already tried CPR.

They hadn't. So, my 68-year-old, retired fighter-pilot father knelt beside the child. He cleared the child's airway and did all that stuff you are supposed to do when someone isn't

breathing. And after five breaths, the boy started breathing on his own. Hotel employees arrived. The ambulance sped up and drove the boy away.

"I'll put you on the phone with your father," Mom said.

We both knew I had to gush over him. How often does anyone, much less your own father, save a life?

When I got off the phone, I repeated the story to my husband.

"I don't know what it is about my dad," I said, puzzled. "This is the same guy that would watch the Golf Channel all day long if you let him. Why was it his business to walk over there and do mouth-to-mouth on a stranger? Is it just that he is a military guy? What? Does he think he is some kind of hero?"

"It isn't that he thinks he's a hero," Brad said. "It's training."

"Training? Brad, the last time my dad had rescue training was in 1968. He said so. 1968," I said.

"I swear, it's training," Brad said. "They train you to know how to act in a crisis. Then when the crisis comes up, you do what you have been taught."

That sounded like the kind of explanation the military would give. It makes sense. But it seems like there must be more to it than that. That hotel pool was crowded with people. Was Dad the only one who had been trained? Was everyone else just in shock? Was everyone

else worried about getting sued?

Brad couldn't understand why this floored me.

"Isn't that exactly what you would expect your father to do in that situation?" he asked. "Isn't that exactly what you would expect me to do?"

Well, yes. I surely don't think military people are perfect. Or that they are the only ones to respond in crisis. But I'm never surprised when it turns out a military person has stopped to rescue me from my flat tire or whatever other crisis I'm having at the moment.

So many of our service members seem to think their obligation to their fellow man does not stop with the weapon in their hand or the Humvee at their fingertips. They seem to believe that mankind itself is their business.

The security of the country, the business of the world, the peace of the universe, the safety at hotel swimming pools IS their business. They're out there protecting and serving all over the place. Even when it is discouraging, they do what they do. It's in their training, yes. But if we want to be perfectly honest, it is also something that must be swirling around in the tangle of their DNA.

Thank God.

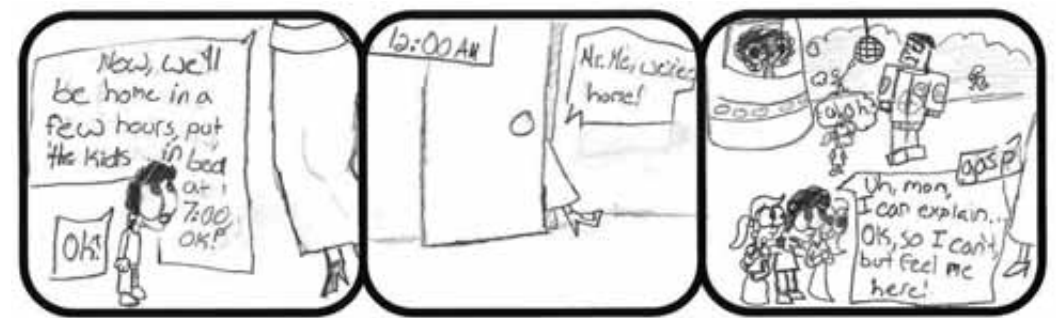
A 19-year military spouse, Jacey Eckhart is a nationally syndicated columnist with *CinCHouse.com* and the host of "The Jacey Eckhart Show for Military Families" ([www.cinchouse.com/jacey](http://www.cinchouse.com/jacey)).

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Mrs. Bias,  
First let me say how much I have enjoyed your Food & Culture column since I have arrived at Rose Barracks in August of '05.

Your column is the first thing I turn to when the base paper comes out. I will miss your writing very much when you leave this summer to return to the U.S. I hope someone will pick up where you have left off and keep the column alive.

*Melanie Favire*



Cartoon by McKenna Tallant

# Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr • Hohenfels • Vilseck • Ansbach • Bamberg • Schweinfurt • Wuerzburg

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# Earth Day message calls for conservation throughout Army

by PETE GEREN  
*Acting Secretary of the Army*

Today our Army continues to wage the long struggle against global terrorism while simultaneously transforming ourselves to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

To achieve success we must acknowledge the conditions that place greater stress on the world’s interconnected human, economic, and natural systems. Most importantly, we must respond accordingly – we must act today to preserve our future.

On this Earth Day we remind

ourselves that, while we remain Army Strong to ensure the defense of this great Nation, we must also remain good stewards of our environment to preserve it for future generations.

Ours is a strong, sustainable Army with the vision to address uncertainties at home and on the battlefield, to coexist with local communities, and to enhance the environment that sustains their well being.

Sustainable practices such as water conservation, greater fuel efficiency, and use of renewable energy allows our Army to travel

farther, deploy longer, and reduce dependence on traditional supply lines and reduce our impact on natural resources.

Sustainability further enhances our business transformation by eliminating waste, driving innovation, and promoting collaboration across the entire Army.

Ours is a strong, sustainable Army that shares its strength with others. As we realign the infrastructure of our installations, depots, and arsenals, we will seek opportunities to work with out neighbors to sustain access to shared resources, and create the

kinds of communities that promote well being for the entire Army family.

On this Earth Day, we as an Army reaffirm our commitment to sustainability. The Army – every Soldier, every civilian, every contractor, and every family member – must make the personal commitment to do everything possible to ensure a strong, sustainable Army.

It is vital that we continue to implement innovative policies and practices that will protect our natural resources for future generations.

Army Strong – Today and Tomorrow!

## Spotlight on Education



**Name:** Rene Kehau Schofield

**What grade/subject do you teach?** Language Arts for 8th grade, Drama for 6th grade, and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) at Grafenwoehr Middle School.

**Hometown:** I am a native Hawaiian who calls Pahoa, Hawaii home, a mere 45 minutes from an active volcano - the newest land on earth!

**How long have you been a teacher?** I have been teaching high school and univeristy the past 13 years, but this is my first middle school assignment.

**What do you like best about teaching?** That glint in the student’s eye, when in the stroke of a second, something suddenly makes sense, something that was once fuzzy or foggy instantaneously becomes clear!

**What advice can you give students to help them succeed in school?** From “Thelma and Louise”, a bit of advice I give to my students: “You get what you settle for! So don’t ever settle for less than your outstanding best and you’ll never get less than that.”

# McKiernan gives safety update and goals

As the midpoint of the fiscal year approaches, we need to review our safety status and determine what we are doing right in terms of accident prevention and where we need to do better.

This review is a new initiative that will be repeated periodically and will become a regular part of our safety efforts.

The objective of the review is to examine current accident information and measure our progress toward meeting the Secretary of Defense goal of a 75 percent reduction in accidents by FY 08, using FY 02 as the base year.

The review also gives us a means of measuring our progress toward our desired end state of *No Accidental Loss of Life*.

The Army and USAREUR goal for FY 07 is 20 percent fewer accidents than in FY 06.

As of the end of February 2007, the United States Army Combat Readiness Center accident report database shows the accidental Soldier deaths in the charts (below).

So far this year, USAREUR has experienced three Class A accidents that resulted in five fatalities.

Two privately owned vehicle accidents claimed the lives of three Soldiers, and two other Soldiers died as result of a personal injury accident when they were struck by a train.

Each of these fatalities represents a flaw in our organizational defense against accidents.

While fatalities in USAREUR are slightly less than last year and the base year, we can and must do better to reduce them even more.

Our losses are consistent with the Army-wide trend and show that POV accidents remain the greatest threat to our Soldiers.

Of the 13 USAREUR fatalities last year, eight involved a POV or motorcycle. In addition, all but two fatalities occurred off duty.

This information tells us that we need to direct our attention toward vehicle safety and the off-duty activities of our Soldiers.

The following USACRC webpages provide safety videos that commanders may use to address these concerns: <https://crc.army.mil/streamingvideo/videolist.asp?video=1099> and <https://crc.army.mil/streamingvideo/videolist.asp?category=102>.

Some leaders may feel that little can be done to influence the off-duty behavior of our Soldiers. I strongly disagree. There are many things we can do, such as:

- Identifying risk-takers and taking appropriate action to limit their ability to take risks.

This may include controlling their off-duty activities, driving privileges, or travel plans. This type

of action demonstrates both discipline and concern.

- Promoting a safety culture in the organization:

**Develop an Informed Culture:** Keep people informed about the hazards and risks associated with certain types of activities, provide alternatives, and work continuously to identify and overcome threats to safety.

**Promote a Just Culture:** Errors are understandable, but willful violations of established safety standards must not occur.

Talk to your Soldiers and be sure they understand what is considered appropriate and inappropriate behavior.

Hold everyone to an achievable, fair, equal, and just standard.

**Encourage a Reporting Culture:** Solutions cannot be identified and implemented until we know the problems.

Encourage everyone to report unsafe conditions, activities, and behavior without fear of reprisal.

Thoroughly address every safety concern brought to your attention and provide feedback.

Let people know that their concerns are being heard.

**Support a Learning Culture:** Encourage everyone to develop and

apply their own skills and knowledge to enhance organizational safety. Provide regular feedback on safety issues. Share information on accidents or close calls so everyone can benefit from the lessons learned.

- Promoting an attitude of high expectations, both on and off duty, and recognizing and rewarding appropriate behavior.

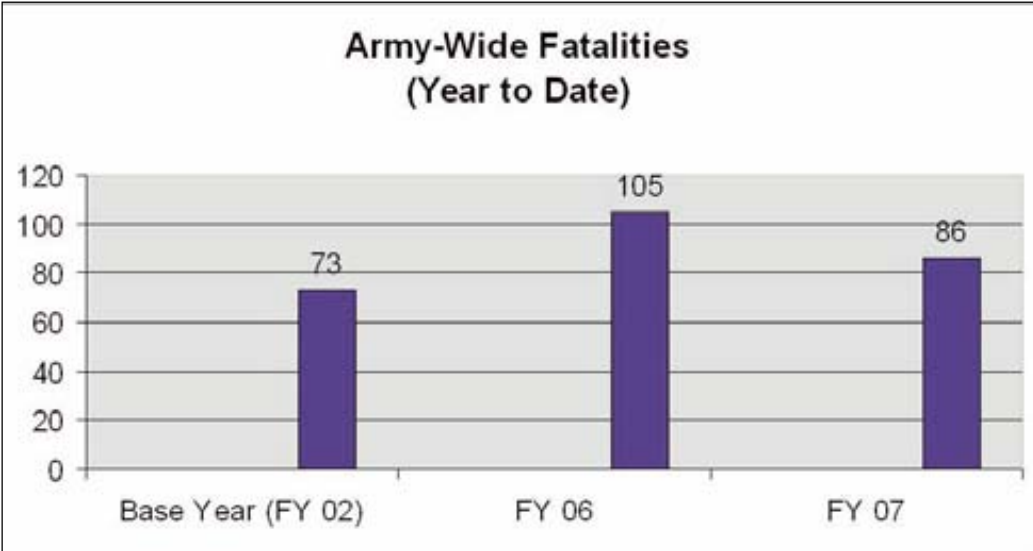
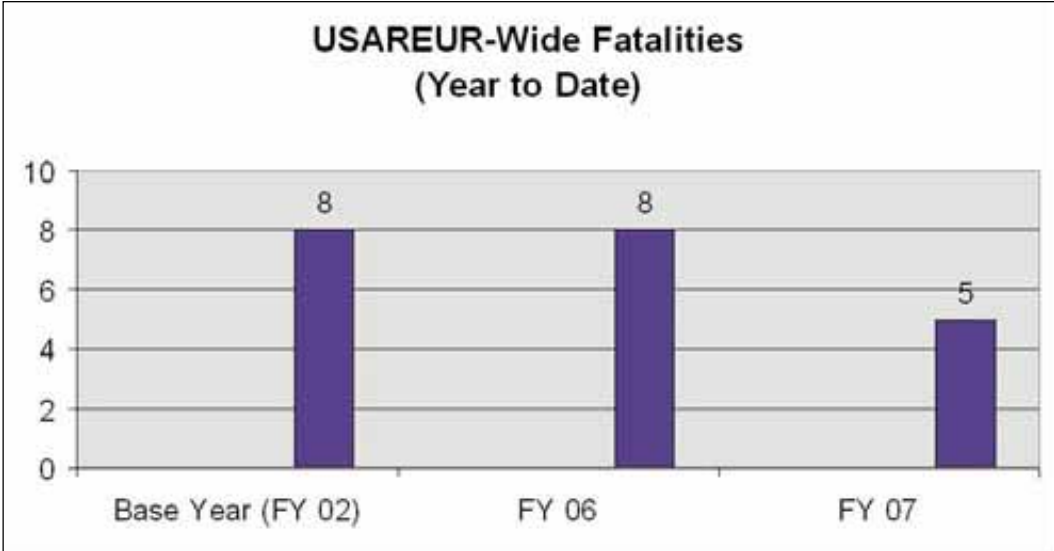
This includes setting organizational goals for accident-free timelines and providing meaningful and suitable incentives for meeting these goals.

Until safety is a core value in all organizations, we will continue to have accidents. Instilling this value will require a team effort.

My challenge to you is to do something every day to support a safety culture, both on and off duty, as a first step in fighting one of our greatest enemies: accidental loss of life.

Leadership and continuous, open communications between those leaders and their Soldiers, families, and civilians will always enhance our safety efforts.

*David D. McKiernan*  
*General, USA*  
*Commanding*



The two charts above show how USAREUR compares to the rest of the Army in fatalities. This information shows the base year FY 02 and where both USAREUR and the Army are at this point in FY 07.



Dear Demetrius,

I am a “stay-at-home-mom” and accordingly I have a hectic lifestyle. I have three young children and a husband. I have not been taking the time I need to in order to plan meals and have a balanced diet. Lately,

**HEALTHY EMPOWERMENT**

**I have noticed that I get these very bad headaches up to three times a week. Could this be from my diet, or lack thereof?**

Signed,  
*“Headache in Hohenfels”*  
*Natalie*

Dear Natalie,

Poor nutrition and certain vitamin/mineral deficiencies can

be the source of many health problems. However, your headaches may be more related to tension and stress stemming from your hectic lifestyle.

Being a “stay-at-home” parent is a difficult, tension filled and stressful job.

Roughly one out of every six people suffer from chronic headaches, see [www.migraineinformation.org](http://www.migraineinformation.org). Many times these headaches begin gradually

in the morning and often present in the middle of the day and are commonly triggered by family, social relationships, friends, work, or school.

Regular eating patterns and aerobic exercise in addition to obtaining adequate sleep can often help to prevent these headaches.

Try to organize your day by making lists and adhering to them as much as possible. While diet is important, let us not forget that total

health includes spiritual, mental, and physical health.

So do not forget to relax, exercise, sleep, and try an occasional massage.

*Demetrius*

Send your nutrition and fitness questions to [usaggnws@EUR.army.mil](mailto:usaggnws@EUR.army.mil). Demetrius Willis is a registered dietician and a certified personal trainer.



# Wounded Soldier Hotline activated, helps troops resolve medical issues

Special to the Bavarian News

The Army activated its Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline Mar. 19, at the direction of the Acting Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff.

The Hotline offers wounded Soldiers and family members a way to seek help to resolve medical-related issues.

It also provides a means for Soldiers and families to alert senior Army leadership about other medical issues.

Knowledge of such issues helps Army leadership improve the way the Army serves the medical needs of Soldiers and their families.

The Hotline can be reached by calling 1-800-984-8523, Monday through Friday. From Europe, Soldiers and family members can call DSN 312-328-0002 or e-mail [wsfsupport@conus.army.mil](mailto:wsfsupport@conus.army.mil).

It is currently open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The Hotline will expand to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, when training of additional personnel is completed.

The U.S. Army Human Resources Command operates the call center.

“We have designed this call center to be able to collectively hear what the Soldiers say about their health care issues, so as issues are raised, we can identify systemic faults or problematic areas and senior leaders can better allocate resources,” said Maj. Gen. Sean J. Byrne, Commanding General, U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

“It’s all about serving our wounded and injured Soldiers and their families. If we can find a way to improve our system, we will. It’s that simple.”

The Hotline is working. Landstuhl Regional Medical Center received three referrals from the call center the first day of activation.

Many wounded Soldiers who have supported the Global War on Terrorism, as well as their families, may endure hardships while navigating through the health care system.

Recent events at Walter Reed Army Medical Center identified the need to improve the administrative

processing of wounded Soldiers. The Army is committed to providing outstanding medical care and support for the men and women who have volunteered to serve their country.

Leaders in Soldiers’ chains of command should be aware that the call center exists, and that it was not created to circumvent the chain of command.

It gives leaders another opportunity to assist their Soldiers in navigating the Military Health Care System and to ensure wounded Soldiers and their families receive the best medical care and services possible.

“I am directing every leader within our Soldiers’ chains of command from Squad Leader to Commanding General to reexamine how we support our Soldiers when issues are brought to our attention,” said Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter Schoomaker.

“Our wounded Soldiers and their families expect and deserve the very best care and leadership from our Army, and I am sure each of you shares our commitment to see that we deliver.”



Acting Secretary of the Army Pete Geren greets and thanks a wounded Soldier for his service in the physical therapy area of Walter Reed Army Medical Center March 16. Due to the recent issues with Walter Reed, the Army has implemented the wounded Soldier hotline to help resolve problems.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina M. O’Connell

## Graf fire chief retires after 30 years

Story and photo by BILYANA ATOVA  
Staff writer

Herbert Proessl, the Grafenwoehr community fire chief, retired after more than 30 years of service.

During his March 23 farewell lunch at the Grafenwoehr Fire Station, employees from the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr DPW, Resource Management, the Hohenfels Fire Department, the Town of Grafenwoehr Fire Department, and IMCOM Europe paid their respects to Proessl.

Born in Gmuend, a village about five kilometers away from Grafenwoehr, he became an active volunteer fireman at age 15 and began working for the Grafenwoehr Community Fire Department in 1977.

One of the most memorable events during his three decades of services was a traffic accident about 20 kilometers from the Grafenwoehr fire station.

“It was winter time. It was snowing and as always I was standing on the platform, outside,” said Proessl. “When we got there I was frozen and covered with snow.”

It was so cold that on the way back Proessl said he decided to climb on

the top of the truck and cover himself with canvas.

“That is how it was to be a fireman 25 years ago,” he said.

From the time he started back in 1977 until now a lot has changed, said Proessl.

“He has seen a lot of changes through the years” said Garrison Fire Chief Matthew Spreitzer, who is taking over Proessl’s job.

“He is very knowledgeable and a reliable person,” said Spreitzer. “He knows the history of the base very well. Some corporate knowledge will be lost.”

“He is this type of guy that if you don’t work with, you would like to have as a friend,” he added.

“To create a strong team working together is a very difficult task to accomplish, but (Proessl) did it” said Sigurd Mack, IMCOM-E fire protection specialist.

Maj. Robert Ray, the garrison’s Director of Emergency Services, noted the importance of employees like Proessl, and local nationals as a whole for the stability of the installation. “The local national civilians are the backbone of the community,” said Ray.

Proessl thanked the U.S. Army for a wonderful job and said, “I enjoyed

working with all of you and I will miss you.”

The desire to be a fireman wasn’t Proessl’s childhood dream, “it happened over the years and it was a

real good job” he said. “I liked to work in the fire business. You need to like it. If not, you cannot stay so long.”

Proessl, who has a 34-year-old daughter, lives in Mantel with his wife.



Herbert Proessl (center), the Grafenwoehr community fire chief, retired after more than 30 years of service. Among the many friends and colleagues who attended his March 23 farewell luncheon at the Grafenwoehr Fire Station were the incoming fire chief (left) Matthew Spreitzer, and the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Director of Emergency Services Maj. Robert Ray.

## New retiree pin bonds active duty, retirees

Special to the Bavarian News

The Army has created a new pin to emphasize the continuing bond between the Army and its almost 800,000 retired Soldiers.

The pin is the Army logo, headed by the word “Retired”. The new pin is larger than its predecessor and clearly identifies the wearer as part of the Army.

Mailing of the pin with a letter from the Army Chief of Staff and Sergeant Major of the Army began March 26<sup>th</sup> and will continue for about four months.

The packet also includes information on the Army Strong campaign and the \$2,000 recruiting referral bonus for retired Soldiers, plus an Army retired window sticker.

“We’re asking retired Soldiers to wear their retired pins proudly. We want them to wear their new pin to show pride in their past service, and as a ‘call to service’ for others in the community,” John Radke, Chief of Army Retirement Services, said.

“We know that most communities are far from an Army post. Many young people have no living relatives who served in the military. The retired Soldiers in their town could be their first personal contact with the Army. The new pins will make our retired Soldiers easy to find.”

The Army Chief of Staff’s Retiree Council proposed the pin’s creation at their annual meeting last April.



## USAG Grafenwoehr Student Achievement



Courtesy photo

The induction ceremony of the National Junior Honor Society for Grafenwoehr Middle School was held March 15 in the Grafenwoehr Water Tower conference room. Inductees were (from left) Patrick Bias, Ericka Jordan, Karina Touzinsky, and Althea Dunn.



Courtesy photo

Grafenwoehr Elementary students have knitted scarves and will them to deployed Delta Co. 4-227 Airborne Soldiers. Pictured are Sofia Dinges, Ingrid Kenan, Ayanna Hall, Olivia Henderson, Camille Williams, Samantha Bidingier, and Michaela Todd.



# Air Force weather squadron keeping up with Soldier skills during Cadre Focus

Story and photo by  
**KATIE COWART**  
Assistant editor

When the Army needs information to be able to safely operate any aircraft out of the Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, or Hohenfels airfields, they call Air Force Detachment 7, 7<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron for support.

The mission of the weather squadron is to provide support to the Army, Air Force, and NATO units.

They accomplish this goal by giving precise weather predictions so that the military can use weather to its advantage.

"We don't want anything to fall into the wrong hands," said Sr. Airman Karl Fernando, a battlefield weather forecaster. "Civilians care about how hot or cold it is when predicting weather, and we care about that, too, but we care more about our mission and how the weather will affect it."

In the weather squadron, all enlisted personnel are battlefield weather forecasters, while the officers are meteorologists, meaning that they all have very specialized training, even

more so than most civilian weathermen.

The weather squadron can also deploy, something a civilian weather service can't do, and they know the military and how to tailor their predictions to issues that affect the military.

For the Army, having the weather squadron around is important, since the Army does not have its own weather unit.

The Air Force unit proves particularly useful during bad weather or medical evacuation situations.

When given a precise window of time, they can tell exactly what the weather will do and how it will affect military operations.

Capt. Matthew Stanley, a staff weather officer, explained what makes working in a squadron supporting the

Army instead of the Air Force unique.

"It's about the aircraft and what type of weather affects them," said Stanley. "We only deal with the lowest layer of the

atmosphere (in the Army)."

From March 22-25, the weather squadron participated in Cadre Focus, the training held three times a year to



Master Sgt. Scott Bradley, the NCOIC of the battlefield weather team, takes down "insurgent" Sgt. Bryan Lachney while being covered by Staff Sgt. Damien Rapp, both Air Force battlefield weather forecasters.

**People think that since we're Air Force, we don't do the same thing our supported guys do. We don't want to be a liability to those we support.**

**Capt. Matthew Stanley**  
Staff Weather Officer

make sure the airmen are current with the demands they will face when deployed in support of an Army unit.

"Not only are we required to maintain our airman skills, but we have to maintain our Soldier skills, too," said Master Sgt. Alexander Hubert.

The exercise gave the airmen a chance to act out scenarios they may face while downrange.

One particular part of the exercise placed them in a convoy in which they had to deal with ambushes, road blocks, and quickly determining the difference between someone who really poses a threat and an innocent

civilian.

"A lot of people think that since we're Air Force, we don't do the same thing our supported guys do," Stanley said. "We don't want to be a liability to those we support."

Part of the exercise was learning to make weather predictions and use weather equipment in different environments.

Part of the scenario included their forecasting weather in Iraq, reading their instruments, and taking into consideration the distinct Middle East weather patterns instead of the European weather to which they are

accustomed.

The training exercise is performed approximately three times a year, since the Air Force deploys in six-month stints, as opposed to the Army's one-year deployments.

This ensures the airmen who have not yet deployed are current with Army practices and lessons learned from deployed airmen.

"We have to make sure everyone gets training to keep us all on the same page," said Stanley.

Several of the airmen participating in the Cadre Focus expect to be deployed within then next year.

## Club Beyond a faith based alternative for youth

Story and photos by **JODI WARD**  
Staff writer

Your kids go to school to learn facts and figures to help them grow mentally, but where can they go to grow spiritually- into a strong moral person that is respectful and caring?

Since 1980, Club Beyond, part of the nonprofit Military Community Youth Ministries, or MCYM, has been ministering to military teens and pre-

teens, providing them a moral and spiritual basis.

In addition to the weekly meetings, the Club offers a variety of activities, including Bible studies, leadership activities, retreats, service projects, outings and trips.

"We want to meet kids where they are (literally, and relationally,) get to know them, spend time with them on their turf, and earn the right to be heard by them about spiritual things," said Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Club

Beyond Director Aretta Zitta.

Zitta said that Club Beyond provides an important outlet for these teens to explore faith and learn from adults who will mentor and befriend them.

"For kids who own their faith, we're a place to grow in that and to be open about it with friends," she said. "For kids who are checking out the God-scene, we're a safe place to ask questions while still having fun

with friends. And for kids who don't give a rip about God, we're still a good place to hang out, with adults who are good role models and who genuinely care," she said.

Though Club Beyond is a chapel sponsored community ministry, the program's activities are open to teens of any or no religious faith or affiliation, offering the basic tenets of Christian faith and a lot of fun.

"We believe in laughter, because it breaks down barriers," said Zitta. "We believe in celebrating life, so we try to have lots of fun. We believe that leaders lead best when we know our students, so we structure time for hanging out, eating and talking together. We have our leaders play the games with the students, so we share experiences.

"We welcome our newcomers," she said. "We learn names. We pay attention to kids who might need extra one-on-one.

"And when we plan club talks, we want to share our own stories and talk about what God has to say about things that our students will care about," said Zitta, who has worked with Club Beyond for the last four years and spent 13 years in youth ministry.

A typical meeting starts out with the welcome, then a get-to-know-you mixer, followed by a game, explained Zitta.

Next, the leaders give

announcements and facilitate "club talk," a themed discussion. The high school meeting ends with dinner and the middle school meeting ends with a snack.

At a recent meeting, 44 middle schoolers in attendance that week raced to complete a scavenger hunt of locations around post Grafenwoehr.

After exhausting some of the seemingly infinite stores of energy that pre-teens have, the group sat down for "club talk." The topic- humility.

Elizabeth Straton, whose daughter attends the middle school Club Beyond, said that her participation in the club, has opened up conversation between her and her daughter.

"It's really opened her up to want to talk about these things," she said.

Club Beyond has two, weekly meetings. The high school students meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Falcon's Nest on Vilseck.

The middle school meeting is held on Thursday afternoons from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the middle school cafeteria.

The high school student leadership meeting, called "Live 4:8," is held twice monthly on Sundays from 6:30 to 7 p.m. at various locations.

For more information, e-mail Zitta at [aretta.zitta@graf.eur.army.mil](mailto:aretta.zitta@graf.eur.army.mil), or attend a meeting.

You don't have to join. Just show up, and you're welcome anytime you want to walk in the door, said Zitta.



The middle school Club Beyond held a scavenger hunt March 8 as part of their regular meeting. Teams raced around Grafenwoehr to find locations hinted at in the clues. One team included (from left rear) Gabbie Owens, Nick Farnham, and volunteer Allen Sligh, and (from left foreground) Austin Smith, Conner Todd, and Katelyn White, and Sharon Smith.



Middle school members also include (from left top) Oriana Farnham and Emily Barnett; (middle) Zenon Montanez and Sam Wareham; and (bottom) David Frenett, Dominic Lonowski, and Dwayne Imber.

## Honors students visit Iceman, famed sites during study tour of Italy

by **AMBER HENDRICKS**  
Special to the Bavarian News

Vilseck High School Freshman honors English teacher Tracy Thornbrugh decided to do the one thing that would make her students' lessons come alive for them: she took them to Italy for an up-close-and-person view of the locations they have studied.

"It was all Stevi Hood's idea," said Thornbrugh.

She explained that before 9-11, it was not uncommon for Department of Defense Dependent Schools to take study trips all over Europe. This was the first recent trip of its kind taken by VHS students, and it was open to honors students only.

After several hours on the bus, the students

and chaperone Lou Stagger, administrative secretary Caren Gale, and Thornbrugh made their first stop in Bolzano to see Oetzi the Iceman, a well preserved natural mummy of a man from about 3300 BC.

Discovered in 1991 in the Schnalstal glacier on the Austrian/Italian border, the world's oldest mummy is believed to be about 5,000 years old. Oetzi, whom the honors students studied in class, was discovered complete with internal organs, the food he'd recently eaten, weapons, and clothing immaculately preserved.

"It's interesting how archaeologists know so much about his life, however I became rather woozy after viewing Otzi," said chaperone Sophie Baer.



Vilseck High School honor students explored the Roman amphitheater of Verona, the city made famous by Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet, during a study tour of Italy last month.

Photo by Lou Stagger



# Do you know the facts on spring cleanup?

For those of you who decided to put your summer tires on in mid March after about two weeks of great spring weather, ... wrong answer! However, don't worry because spring is within reach. We may still see a few more rough days of winter-like weather but April showers usually brings May flowers. The Hohenfels community will



prepare for spring by conducting its semi-annual community-wide Spring Cleanup April 17-18. Let me dispel a few myths about spring cleanup before I go any further. **Myth: Spring cleanup does not apply to anyone living in off post government quarters.** Fact: Spring cleanup applies to everyone living in government quarters on and off post. It applies to everyone living in the barracks, bachelor quarters, senior enlisted bachelor quarters, and officer bachelor quarters as well. **Myth: The garrison is responsible for picking up bulk trash in all the off post housing areas during spring cleanup.**

Fact: Although the area and building coordinators are responsible for making sure Soldiers living in their respective housing areas are participating in spring cleanup, it is a individual's responsibility to take his or her own bulk trash to the sort facility. This can be done on post or at a community collection point that will accept bulk trash and refuse. Remember, the trash fairy is on vacation for the month of April, so don't leave it out expecting the fairy to come through. **Myth: It is mandatory for family members to participate in spring cleanup as long as they live in government quarters.** Fact: It is not mandatory for

family members, but highly encouraged. This does not mean you stay home from work and conduct spring cleanup without approval from your supervisor. Day One will consist of on-post maintenance, troop barracks, motor pools, offices, and surrounding buildings on post as well as all common areas. Day Two will consist of all the on post and off post housing areas. It applies to areas outdoors and indoors. If you have not contacted the Self Help Store to find out what supplies they have to offer, now is your opportunity. If you were waiting to change

out that blown light in the basement or fix that broken blind but never got around to it, take the time during spring cleanup and get it done. Let's get together and do this as a team! Contact your area and building coordinators to find out how you can assist on getting the equipment necessary to make your living areas safe and clean. Take pride in your community by conducting a good area beautification. **CSM Don Battle**  
**U.S. Army**  
**Garrison Hohenfels**

# PEO showcasing Army weapons, clothing, gear under development during April tour at Hohenfels

PEO news release

Program Executive Office Soldier will showcase its most technologically advanced equipment and systems at the U.S. Army Europe PEO Soldier Germany Tour April 2 – 11. PEO Soldier's Strategic Communications Team is bringing a full-scale, hands-on exhibit that includes examples of weapons, clothing, sensors, lasers, and other gear so that USAREUR Soldiers and leaders can see the new equipment the Army is developing for them. PEO Soldier's approach to the Soldier-as-a-System strategy encompasses everything the Soldier wears or carries to make certain that each piece of equipment fits into the overall design and integrates fully with other equipment. By ensuring Soldiers receive the best and most advanced equipment available in the shortest possible timeframe, PEO Soldier helps maintain the Army as the best equipped, best protected and most lethal force in the world. The tour kicked off with a five-day exhibit Monday and will run through Friday at the Community Activities Center, Bldg. 40,

“ We know many of these Soldiers are getting ready to deploy, and we want them to see what new equipment is being fielded. ”

Sgt. Maj. Thomas Coleman  
PEO Soldier / Natick Soldier Center

Hohenfels Training Area. It then moves to the Vilseck Post Exchange Saturday to Sunday. From there, the exhibit moves to Wiesbaden Army Airfield where it will be on display at the Reunion Center, Bldg. 1638, Tuesday and April 11. The exhibit will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. “We know many of these Soldiers are getting ready to deploy, and we want them to see what new equipment is being fielded,” said Sgt. Maj. Thomas Coleman, Sergeant Major for PEO Soldier/Natick Soldier Center. “We also know that a lot of USAREUR Soldiers just returned from deployment, and we

want to talk with them about what they think would help improve our existing equipment,” he said. “This tour also provides an important opportunity to communicate with USAREUR senior leaders about any questions or concerns they may have.” PEO Soldier subject matter experts also will be on hand to discuss how PEO Soldier equips our troops with the gear they need, when and where they need it. The PEO Soldier exhibit will include: **Rapid Fielding Initiative** equipment, which PEO Soldier has fielded to more than 800,000 Soldiers at an average rate of more than

24,000 per month. RFI, which began as a result of feedback from Soldiers in the field, delivers technologically advanced equipment that meets the Soldiers' needs as quickly as possible. The **Generation III Extended Cold Weather Clothing System** is designed to be functional in multiple cold weather climates and activities. It consists of a versatile, multi-layered insulating system that allows the Soldier to adapt to varying mission requirements and environmental conditions. The new **Army Service Uniform** combines elements of various dress uniforms into one ASU in the same manner that the Army Combat Uniform streamlined field utility uniforms. The **XM26 12 Gauge Modular Accessory Shotgun System** is under development and intended to attach underneath the M4 Modular Weapon Systems. It zeroes to the host weapon and fires lethal, non-lethal, and door breaching rounds. For additional information on PEO Soldier, visit [www.peosoldier.army.mil](http://www.peosoldier.army.mil).

# High school seniors raise \$2,500 for scholarships during spaghetti dinner

Story and photo by  
ANTHONY COLANTUONO  
Special to the Bavarian News

March 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the Hohenfels High School second annual Spaghetti Dinner and Recital. The event raised money for the senior class scholarship fund. “I think the dinner is really cool because kids in the States have a lot of scholarship chances, and here we're limited,” said senior Kirsten Arnold. The event was hosted by senior class members who also acted as servers for the evening. Parents, faculty, and several community members volunteered to help make the event a success by donating food, cooking, decorating, working in the kitchen, and performing in the recital. AAFES allowed the school access to the kitchen in the Great Hall. Parents and students arrived early to set up for the event. The Great Hall was decked out in green, white, and red for the evening's Italian theme. Fresh flowers, decorative ivy, and candles served as centerpieces. Students, faculty, and community members performed a 45-minute recital showcasing music from Mozart and Bach to Peter, Paul and Mary before the dinner. The show opener featured Hohenfels High School Advanced Band members performing “Romanesque” and “Evening Song.” The night's entertainment included many solo vocal and instrumental performances, as well as a stand-up comedy routine by Hohenfels freshmen Blake Bushee. The Hohenfels Hand Bell Choir capped the evening in perfect unison, displaying soft sounds and smooth music, performing “Air” and a finale of “Wind Beneath My Wings.” After the last bell chimed, seniors bustled as extra tables were quickly added to school liaison officer and certified chef, seniors dressed in

button-up shirts, ties, and semi-formal attire filed out of the kitchen carrying trays of salad and drinks. “The seniors were terrific both preparing and serving the food,” said Wolff. “They looked awesome, acted professional, and with more then double the number of attendees from last year, the kids kept their cool and did an outstanding job of keeping up with the busy demand.” After salad and spaghetti dinners, attendees were treated to their choice of desserts, including homemade cakes, pies, and cupcakes. Diners were entertained throughout the meal by soothing piano music, courtesy of music teacher Deborah Barrows. “This is a great event because it gives the parents and community to see the kids dressed up and professional, working together toward

something that benefits them both,” said HHS teacher and senior parent Bill Arnold. “It's cool for the people that win (the scholarships) because everyone worked together for their future,” said senior Morgan Helbling. Tickets were \$5 each, and attendees were given the opportunity to leave tips in a collection box throughout the night. Takeout meals were available, adding to the night's revenue. The event raised \$2,500 for the scholarship fund. Lara Clagett, whose daughter was a scholarship recipient last year, said she is an avid supporter of the event. “This is a great event to support because it supports our local youth and it gets mom and dad out of cooking dinner on a busy weeknight,” said Clagett. “I love the fact that the kids are working for their future!”



Senior Anthony Marshall serves up dinner salads to attendees at the annual Hohenfels High School Spaghetti Dinner March 22.

# Community invited to attend Mom, Dad lunches at the Zone

Special to the Bavarian News

Once a month, Hohenfels moms gather for lunch at The Zone, listen to a guest speaker, and fellowship with one another. **H o h e n f e l s**  
Family Life Chaplain Gail Porter began the Moms Lunches in October. The Dads Lunches started up in June, and the Moms wanted a lunch, too. The concept for the lunches is to provide a forum where moms can be affirmed and encouraged in the things they were doing right, and get ideas for even more ways to be great moms. “The food was excellent,” said Lori Starnes who attended her first Moms Lunch in March. “It was great that they provided watchcare for those who needed it.”

Lori Starnes  
Lunch attendee

Moms can e-mail Porter at [gail.porter@us.army.mil](mailto:gail.porter@us.army.mil), or call DSN 466-4795 in advance to reserve a place. If you need a space (or a few spaces) for watchcare, you can reserve those at that time.



Top 5 issues

Conference 2007

AAFAP Recommendations

Special to the Bavarian News

The Hohenfels Army Family Action Plan Conference took place March 20-21 at the Community Activity Center.

The following are the top five issues, the scope of each issue, and conference recommendations.

Issue 1

**TITLE:** Lack of AAFES Services at Remote Combat Training Centers, or CTCs

**SCOPE:** Remote training centers at Hohenfels, GE, Fort Irwin, CA and Fort Polk, LA must support an influx of training soldiers as well as families of permanent party simultaneously.

The PX does not properly order a variety of products and maintain a sufficient stock to meet the minimum expectations of the community and the training population.

Additionally, during rotation the Food Court cannot accommodate the amount of people attempting to eat within a limited window at meal times.

AAFES operating hours are in conflict with the training center’s mission. AAFES does not meet their mission requirements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Mandate each CTC installation to have an AAFES Council, comprised of a cross-section of their community to determine that particular community’s needs.
2. Require AAFES to be accountable to the decisions of the AAFES Council.
3. Adjust operating hours to better

accommodate the needs of the training soldiers and resident community.

Issue 2

**TITLE:** Availability of Military Professional Medical Care and Specialty Care for Soldiers and Family Members in MEDDAC Bavaria

**SCOPE:**

Due to the closure of a major inpatient military medical facility, limited availability and accessibility of military health care providers exist within MEDDAC Bavaria to provide and coordinate health care for Soldiers and family members.

As units restructure, the number of Soldiers and family members increase within Bavaria, without an increase in military health care providers.

Soldiers and family members must travel excessive long distances to receive military medical care or receive care within the German medical system which causes time away from mission and additional stress.

In addition, the limited numbers of military providers creates a lack of continuity of care due to lack of communication and consistency between military and German providers.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Provide centrally located military staffed inpatient medical facility within MEDAC Bavaria, with adequate providers that can accommodate Soldiers and family members.
2. Coordinate health care and update technology between the military medical and German systems to allow for ease of referrals, diagnostic testing and follow up within 72 hours

by military health care providers.

3. Increase the number of military medical providers, patient liaison coordinators, and credentialed medical translators within MEDDAC Bavaria.

Issue 3

**TITLE:** Limited Fast Food Options on Hohenfels

**SCOPE:** There are only three fast food chain restaurants on Hohenfels. Due to a lack of fast-food choices off-post, the community is relegated to minimum selections. Other posts enjoy a variety of fast food options. The monotony of eating the same thing over and over again negatively impacts quality of life.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Add American fast food chain restaurant (i.e. Taco Bell, Charlie’s, Popeye’s, Baskin Robbins, or a Chinese restaurant).
2. Expand Food Court to accommodate more restaurants and seating area.
3. Consider local national kiosk and Anthony’s pizza delivery service.

Issue 4

**TITLE:** Drivers Education for Teenage Family Members

**SCOPE:** English -based driving classes that focus on the host nation driving rules are not available for teenage family members that reside on military installations outside of the United States.

Teenagers are not familiar with host nation rules and regulations and are not adequately

prepared to handle a vehicle on foreign roads thereby putting their lives and the lives of others at risk.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Solicit and implement an ongoing contract to provide host nation driving classes in English, for a reasonable price, on post.
2. Establish a lead agency for oversight of the contract coordination and solicitation.

Issue 5

**TITLE:** Inadequate Staffing to Provide Dental Care Services for Army Family Members

**SCOPE:** The Army Dental Program within OCONUS is not mandated to provide comprehensive dental care to family members. Difficulty for family members occur, and coordination of dental appointments, billing, and management of dental insurance cause increased financial burden and stress.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Establish a comprehensive list of adult and pediatric dental providers, to include comprehensive dental care, not limited to orthodontic and oral surgeons.
2. Hire a dental liaison to coordinate appointments, claims and payments, perform site evaluations, and resolve patient complaints to mimic TRICARE medical support.
3. Make contracts with German providers for standardized billing that does not permit pre-payment by eligible dependants.

**Top Five Services:** 1. Medical/Dental 2. Post Exchange 3. DoD Schools 4. DeCA 5. Employment Readiness

‘Shakers’ shakes up laughs at Box Seat Theater

by JOANNE LOVE  
Special to the Bavarian News

The Hohenfels Box Seat Theatre presented comedy “Shakers” March 20-21 at the Zone Club to the delight and enjoyment of the Hohenfels audience.

And, evidently, Shakers Cocktail Bar is the place to be. The story takes place in an up-market trendy cocktail bar, the likes of which can be found in every city across the country.

After work, before a club, after the show, a place to meet friends, to pick up the girls, to drink to celebrate or drown your sorrows, for birthdays and parties and romance and sin, Shakers is the place to see and be seen.

Carol (Hannah Porter), Adele (Ellen Schumann), Nicki (Rosemarie Smith), and Mel (Maria Diaz) are four long suffering waitresses who offer a fascinating and hilarious view of the reality that lurks on the other side of the bar.

Cleverly portraying some of their clientele from the check-out girls to the high fliers, from the posers to the local guys on a night out, they take us on a wickedly funny journey full of observation and emotion.

The four young waitresses reveal the lives of coworkers and customers, offering insight into their hopes, dreams and disappointments. John Godber’s writing creates a richly absorbing modern comedy.

Shakers is this year’s IMCOM USAREUR Tops in Plays competition entry for U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels.

The competition will pit USAG H against 22 other Army theaters throughout Europe and England. The productions will be performed for a panel of three judges from the United States.

“Selecting a play which takes place in a bar and then using the bar for the performance was a brilliant idea,” said Ron Zeigler, head adjudicator. “This

was an excellent ensemble piece and the four actresses worked very well together. Their choices of characters were right on target. The pace of the show was wonderful and the two-hour performance flew by.”

Adjudicator John Sullivan loved the “use of the space, it was wonderful to watch and I thoroughly enjoyed the evening,” he said. “The choices made by the cast and director showed how closely they worked together and while on stage it was very evident that the actresses were listening to each other, a very important aspect of acting.”

“It took me a few moments to discover what was happening, as the characters became someone else, but it was so much fun watching that it was very easy to see the different people appear on stage,” said Diane Matheson.

“It was a lot of fun and it was great,” said MWR Marketing’s Ratia Purdy.



Photo by Gail Porter

(From left) Ellen Schumann, Maria Diaz, Rosemarie Smith, and Hannah Porter star in Shakers.

Troops learn cross-cultural communications at JMRC

Story and photo by Pfc. MICHAEL BALTZ  
107th Mobile PA Detachment

“Sometimes you have to go into a city and knock down the doors, and sometimes you have to go into a city and win the minds and hearts of the cities,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jason B. Matheney.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Matheney (left) speaks to the mayor of a mock village during a training exercise.



Using both methods, the Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters and Alpha companies from the Special Troops Battalion of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Combat Team performed a cordon and search training exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels March 20.

The mission was to perform a village assessment and to use human intelligence that indicated the possible location of a small arms collection in the town of Dwana Boba being stockpiled by Mahabeed Jihaad, a high-value target for smuggling arms and materials to make improvised explosive devices to anti-coalition militia forces, explained Matheney.

The mission called for an aerial insertion using Black Hawk UH-68 helicopters. The soldiers approached the city passively.

“We kept our hands off our weapons to show we are not here to attack,” he said.

Matheney and his troops attempted to enter the city to speak with the mayor, but they were denied access by the villagers.

The interpreter then started to explain to them that the troops were not there to take over the city, but they

were there to conduct a village assessment and to inquire if they need any assistance.

After the interpreter helped gain the confidence of the villagers, they took the troops to the village leader.

Matheney informed the mayor of his intelligence, the mayor denied the accusations. In order to receive the truth, Matheney had to gain the respect of the mayor.

Matheney had to be very personal. “The mayor was a farmer so I started talking about my experiences in farming,” he said.

After personal discussions about the mayor’s family and farm, Matheney was then directed to the village electrician, who is the carrier of the city’s intelligence.

The electrician then guided them to their high value target, Jihaad. After Jihaad refused to talk, the Soldiers then used force to apprehend him.

They used a retina scanner to

confirm their target. During this, the Soldiers used unconventional tactics to direct the villagers away from the target being apprehended to keep the villagers from becoming chaotic, said Matheney.

The Soldiers then began to clear the buildings and found the small arms collection and IED-making materials.

Matheney informed the mayor that if he needs any assistance or if another cell comes through to call him and they will come and take care of it.

The training was extremely realistic, said Matheney.

The collective knowledge and experience from the leaders helped to prepare the Soldiers on what to expect and helps refresh the memories of the Soldiers, said Spc. Brandon M. Smith, a medic for the battalion.

“The training helps put me in the mind set of getting ready for war,” said Smith.



# What’s Happening

## Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

### General officer new assignments announced

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally III, commanding general, 3d Corps Support Command, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany, to commanding general, 3d Sustainment Command (expeditionary), Fort Knox, Ky.

### Red Cross offers April community training courses

The following community training courses are available:

- **First Aid:** Vilseck office, April 21, 8 a.m.-noon, \$25
- **Babysitter’s Training:** Grafenwoehr office, April 23-25, 3:30 p.m.–6 p.m., \$35.00
- **Volunteer Orientation:** Vilseck office, May 2, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
- **First Aid:** Vilseck office, May 19, 8 a.m.–noon, \$25
- **Babysitter’s Training:** Grafenwoehr office, May 21-23, 3:30 p.m.–6 p.m., \$35.00
- **Adult/Infant Child CPR:** Grafenwoehr office, June 2, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., \$30.00
- **Volunteer Orientation:** Vilseck office, June 6, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
- **First Aid:** Vilseck office, June 9, 8 a.m.-noon, \$25

Pre-payment is required for all training classes. Stop by either the Grafenwoehr or Vilseck office to make payment (exact cash, check, or money order).

If you have any questions, call the Red Cross offices at DSN 476-1760, CIV 09662-83-1760 or DSN 475-1760, CIV 09641-83-1760.

### Entrepreneur’s workshop

**Register now:** Are you interested in starting your own business? The Gründerzentrum (Business Development Agency) in Grafenwoehr offers a free two-day business start-up seminar April 19-20 (Thursday-Friday), 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For registration, contact Gabriele Murry, at [g.w.murry@t-online.de](mailto:g.w.murry@t-online.de). Include your name, phone, and e-mail address.

### Garrison School Update

**Friday:** Teacher Work Day. No school for students.

**Monday - April 13:** Spring Recess

**April 16:** Teacher in-service training no school for students at VES and GES only.

**April 19:** VES hosts “Dining at the Ritz” at 11:30 a.m. to celebrate student success by honoring students with high academic achievement and students that

are the most improved in academic achievement for the quarter.

**April 18-20:** Parent Teacher conferences and student registration.

**April 21:** Vilseck High School soccer at VHS at 10 a.m. VHS Falcons versus Black Forest Academy.

**April 28:** CYS Kinderfest at Vilseck Memorial Fitness Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vilseck Falcon Soccer at home starting at 10 a.m.

**May 17:** Early acceleration for students must meet the following requirements: sponsor must provide PCS orders or a written request to the registrar at least 30 days prior to the departure date; the student must be in attendance up to and including the date of May 17; the student must complete all accelerated work requested by teachers and teachers must sign off that work is accepted and completed no later than one week prior to accelerated withdrawal date; and all students requesting an acceleration must have the approval of registrar, counselors, and principal.

**June 14:** Last day of school. Early release about noon all schools.

School Contact Numbers:  
VES 476-2812  
GES 475-7133  
GMS 475-9500  
VHS 476-2554  
School Transportation 475-9525

**CYS SKIES new creative arts program.** Tuesdays for ages 3-5, 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and ages 5 & up, 12:15-1:15 p.m. Vilseck CYS Bldg. 224. Monthly Cost: \$20. For information, contact CYS at DSN 476-2760 or CIV 09662-83-2760.

### MCEC offers Parent 2 Parent workshops in April

■ The Importance of Parental Involvement: A SKIES workshop while you wait—open to the public! April 5–3:30 p.m. at Graf’s School Age Services, Bldg 508. Tuesday–10 a.m. in Vilseck’s AFTB classroom, Bldg 221. Research shows that the more involved the parent is in the child’s education the more academic success the child experiences. Learn ways to become involved in your child’s life in the classroom as well as in the community.

■ Preparing for parent teacher conferences: April 17-9 a.m. at the Vilseck Family Resource Center (Yellow Ribbon Room), Bldg 273 or April 18-9 a.m. at the Graf Teen Center, Bldg 503. Just in time for school conferences! Get the most out of your parent teacher conference! Learn ways to prepare for and communicate effectively during a conference.

■ April 19–The Real World... what are you doing? Vilseck High School at 6 p.m. Parent to Parent has teamed up with the Real World to provide a series of workshops on preparing your high

school student for the future. This month’s workshop will include topics dealing with making the transition out of high school.

■ April 24–Surfing the Waves of Education: A web-based workshop. Stop in anytime between 11 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Vilseck Digital Training Facility, Bldg 355. This workshop will help you become familiar with the many different electronic resources available to help the mobile military child as well as the college or career bound student.

■ April 25–The Importance of Parental Involvement: Noon in the Vilseck CYS conference room, Bldg 224. Research shows that the more involved the parent is in the child’s education the more academic success the child experiences. Learn ways to become involved in your child’s life in the classroom as well as in the community.

For more information about these and other available workshops from the MCEC Parent to Parent Team, contact us at CIV 0175-648-2777 or [GrafVilseckParent2Parent@yahoo.com](mailto:GrafVilseckParent2Parent@yahoo.com).

### Civilian, military training opportunity in Graf

The Civilian Human Resource Agency Europe, Human Resource Development Division offers professional development and training opportunities at various locations in Europe.

The courses are open to DA civilians, LN’s, and military. The tuition cost is free for these courses. To check out more about the kind of training offered, course descriptions and schedule, go to our website <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm> click on “Training & Development” then click on “HRDD Courses in Europe. The course schedule lists current courses in Europe. The course description lists potential courses for Europe.

For those who have completed a profile, please check your e-mail address in CHRTAS. Due to the server migration, many e-mail addresses have changed!

Next upcoming course in the Grafenwoehr area is:

**April 17-20,** Data Analysis with MS Excel, Grafenwoehr.

**April 17-18,** Customer Service/ Dealing with Angry Customers, DTF (Digital Training Facility)

Seats at the Digital Training Facility is limited to 16 persons only. Military members are encouraged to attend.

### Required Army substance abuse training offered online

Per AR 600-85, all Soldiers are required to complete four hours of substance abuse awareness training during the fiscal year. Additionally, the requirement for civilian employees and supervisors is three hours of substance abuse awareness.

To assist Soldiers, civilian employees, and supervisors in meeting this requirement, several Power Point presentations have been developed for use on the Garrison Intranet at <https://intranet.grafenwoehr.army.mil>.

For additional information, call DSN 476-3469 or CIV 09662-83-3469.

### Gate closures announced

Due to planned construction at Vilseck Gate 1 (main entrance) to enhance gate security, traffic traveling to and from Rose Barracks will share one lane for both inbound and outbound travel.

**April 16-19:** inbound lane closed

**April 23-26:** outbound lane closed

### Chaplain Happenings

**Lutheran/Episcopal Lent schedule:**

- April 5, **Holy Thursday**, 6 p.m. Small Vilseck Chapel.
- April 6, **Good Friday**, 5 p.m. Small Vilseck Chapel.
- **Easter Sunday**, 10:30 a.m. Small Vilseck Chapel.

**Catholic services:**

- **Holy Thursday**, April 5, 6 p.m. Catholic Mass, Graf Chapel.
- **Good Friday**, April 6 noon, Ecumenical Service, Graf Chapel. 6 p.m. Catholic Mass, Vilseck Chapel.
- **Easter Vigil Service**, Saturday, 7 p.m. Catholic Mass, Graf Chapel.
- **Easter Sunday** 7 a.m. Sunrise Service at Big Mike’s (Vilseck). 9 a.m. Catholic Mass, Graf Chapel. 11 a.m. Catholic Mass, Vilseck Chapel. 9 a.m. Protestant Service, Vilseck Chapel.

## Hohenfels Briefs

### High school pre-registration, conferences held April 20

Parent conferences and pre-registration will only be held April 20. This will be a one-day event. For more information, call DSN 466-3162.

### Auditor needed for HHS school activity fund

Hohenfels High School is looking for a person with some financial background to audit the school activity fund account. We would like an experienced person to make sure we are following all the procedures. If interested please contact Bill Arnold, bookkeeper, at DSN 466-3161 or [william.arnold@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:william.arnold@eu.dodea.edu).

### FAST aims to raise GT scores for Soldiers

The next Functional Academic Skills Training class will be held April 16- April 27 in Bldg. 336, room three. Registration must be submitted by April 11. For more information, call DSN 466-2882 or e-mail [lissa.wojtun@us.army.mil](mailto:lissa.wojtun@us.army.mil).

### Additional duty safety course slated in April

Supervisor and additional duty safety officer course for Hohenfels Garrison includes tenant offices and units IAW AR 385-10.

The Department of Army Safety Program requires that an additional duty safety officer (Soldier, SGT E-5 promotable or higher rank or equivalent civilian) be appointed for each organization or unit.

The appointed additional duty safety officers or NCOs for tenant units are also invited to attend this course. Register for this course for either April 26 and 27 (a one-day course) from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (with a lunch break) at the Garrison Safety Office, Bldg. 388. POC: Hohenfels Garrison Safety Office, DSN 466-1670/4626.

### Ramstein holds risk communication workshop

A U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Introductory Risk Communication workshop will be held May 7-9 at the Ramstein Officer’s Club.

Register online at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/risk> or e-mail [Suaquita.perry@us.army.mil](mailto:Suaquita.perry@us.army.mil).

A faxable registration form is also available upon request. For local information, call DSN 486-7099 or e-mail [Laura.Mitvalsky@us.army.mil](mailto:Laura.Mitvalsky@us.army.mil).

### TMP dispatch requires online training for long trips

USAREUR requires ASMIS-2 online Driver Risk Assessment to be completed by the government vehicle driver and supervisor before dispatch of a government vehicle for trips over 150 miles.

TMP will not dispatch a government vehicle for these longer trips without a copy of this form. POC: Garrison Safety, DSN 466-4626/1670.

### Annual AWAG conference set in Garmisch April 29-May 3

American Women’s Activities, Germany - AWAG...Key to Success - 51st Annual Conference at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in beautiful Garmisch, Germany, April 29-May 3.

You won’t want to miss this great opportunity to meet new friends, gather new ideas, and strengthen your skills.

We welcome FRG leaders, spouses’ club board members, scout leaders/ committee members, ACS volunteers, PTA’s, schools, and many more!

Come to Garmisch and see what all the excitement is about! To give you the “AWAG...Key to Success”, we will offer you a professional environment with a choice of 15 seminars and three general sessions during your stay.

There will be many core classes for you to choose from: president, treasurer, welfare scholarship, running effective FRG’s, and bazaar (you won’t want to miss that one). There will be entertainment, fun, and the famous “fluff” classes everyone loves! Prices are based on double occupancy and includes room, three meals a day, and seminars.

Travel is not included. Feel free to join us at your own expense, or you may contact your local spouses club, FRG, or organization to see if you qualify for sponsorship to attend the conference. We will meet with all Oberpfalz delegates and speakers in April before you attend the conference.

To unlock the “AWAG...Key to Success”, contact your Oberpfalz Area Representatives, Laura Redden [oberpfalz1@awag.us](mailto:oberpfalz1@awag.us) or Traci Artman [oberpfalz2@awag.us](mailto:oberpfalz2@awag.us), for more details. Come join us in Garmisch to see what AWAG can do for you!

### Tae kwon do class cancelled

Tae kwon do classes will be cancelled on Sunday in observance of Easter.

### Silvia Cote classes cancelled

Step aerobics, indoor cycling and personal training classes conducted by Silvia Cote will be cancelled Monday through April 13 due to leave.

### Health clinic Easter schedule

Due to the Easter holiday, the health clinic will be open for Active Duty and community sick-call during the following hours:

**Friday:** 8-10 a.m.

**Saturday:** 8-10 a.m.

**Monday:** 8-10 a.m.

After these hours, contact IOC at DSN 466-2819 if you need to speak to a medical provider. If there is a medical emergency, immediately go to the nearest German Hospital or call (on post) 116, (off post) 19222.

### Construction causes road, gate closure through April 20

The road between Gate 1 and the town of Hohenfels will be closed due to road construction until 8 a.m. April 20.

Gate 1 will remain open but will only be accessible from the Grossbissendorf side. A detour route for those living east of the road closure is via Raitenbuch and Grossbissendorf to Gate 1.

Gate 2 will remain closed.

### Parking lot closed, alternate parking available

The parking lot adjacent to Bldgs. 88 and 15 will be closed for a period of five weeks starting April 26.

Additional parking is available at the bowling center and Bldg. 100. Pedestrian access to Bldg. 15 will be available. The POC is M. Schmidt at DSN 466-2515.

### Thrift Store needs manager

The Hohenfels Thrift Store is looking for a manager. The manager is responsible for the daily operation and management of the Thrift Shore.

The manager will work Tuesdays and Thursdays (April-October) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (November-March) and the first Saturday of every month from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Stop by the Thrift Store or contact Leah for an application or more info ([leahgransbery@yahoo.com](mailto:leahgransbery@yahoo.com).)

### Chaplain Happenings

■ **Holy Week:**

Friday at 7 p.m. Friday Pentecostal Service, Nainhof Chapel.

Friday at 5 p.m. Good Friday, Celebration of the Lord’s Passion Mass, Main Post Chapel.

Saturday at 5 p.m. Holy Saturday, Catholic Easter Vigil Mass, Main Post Chapel.

Friday at 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service, Collective Protestant, Nainhof Chapel.

Easter Sunday, all chapel services.

■ **Christ’s Commandos (C2)** is church just for kids. We meet in the Post Theater on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, 10:45 a.m.- noon. We have skits, puppets, music, and games.


■ **Young adults** who have already graduated from high school and are working in the community are invited to Bible study, a relaxed atmosphere, and a home cooked meal each Tuesday evening at Bldg. 743, across from the Commissary.

This is sponsored by the Protestant Congregation at Nainhof Chapel.

Call Chaplain Bradford Baumann at DSN 466-1570 or CIV 09472-831570 for more information.

■ Students in **junior high or high school** are invited to The MUG Coffee House each Wednesday evening.

Call Chris Howard at DSN 466-4793 or CIV 09472-834793.



# 2007-2008 SCHOOL REGISTRATION

## Grafenwoehr Middle School

**FOR: CHILDREN GOING INTO 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> GRADES**

**DATE: 20 APRIL 2007**

**TIME: 0830 – 1500**

**PLACE: GRAFENWÖHR MIDDLE SCHOOL, MAIN OFFICE**

**PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS TO REGISTRATION:**

- **Re-registration Packet (Mailed to parent/sponsor on April 2<sup>nd</sup>)**
- **Sponsor's Orders listing child's name as a dependent**
- **Sponsor I.D. (Civilians and Contractors)**
- **Original Immunization Records**
- **Students Birth Certificate or Passport and Social Security Number**
- **Name and Phone Number of 2 Emergency Contacts**
- **Name address and Phone Number of a Permanent US Contact**
- **Previous School Records/Previous School Contact Information**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Students 11 yrs. or older are required to have a TdaP booster on file within 2 weeks of their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Contact your Health Clinic prior to taking required immunizations.

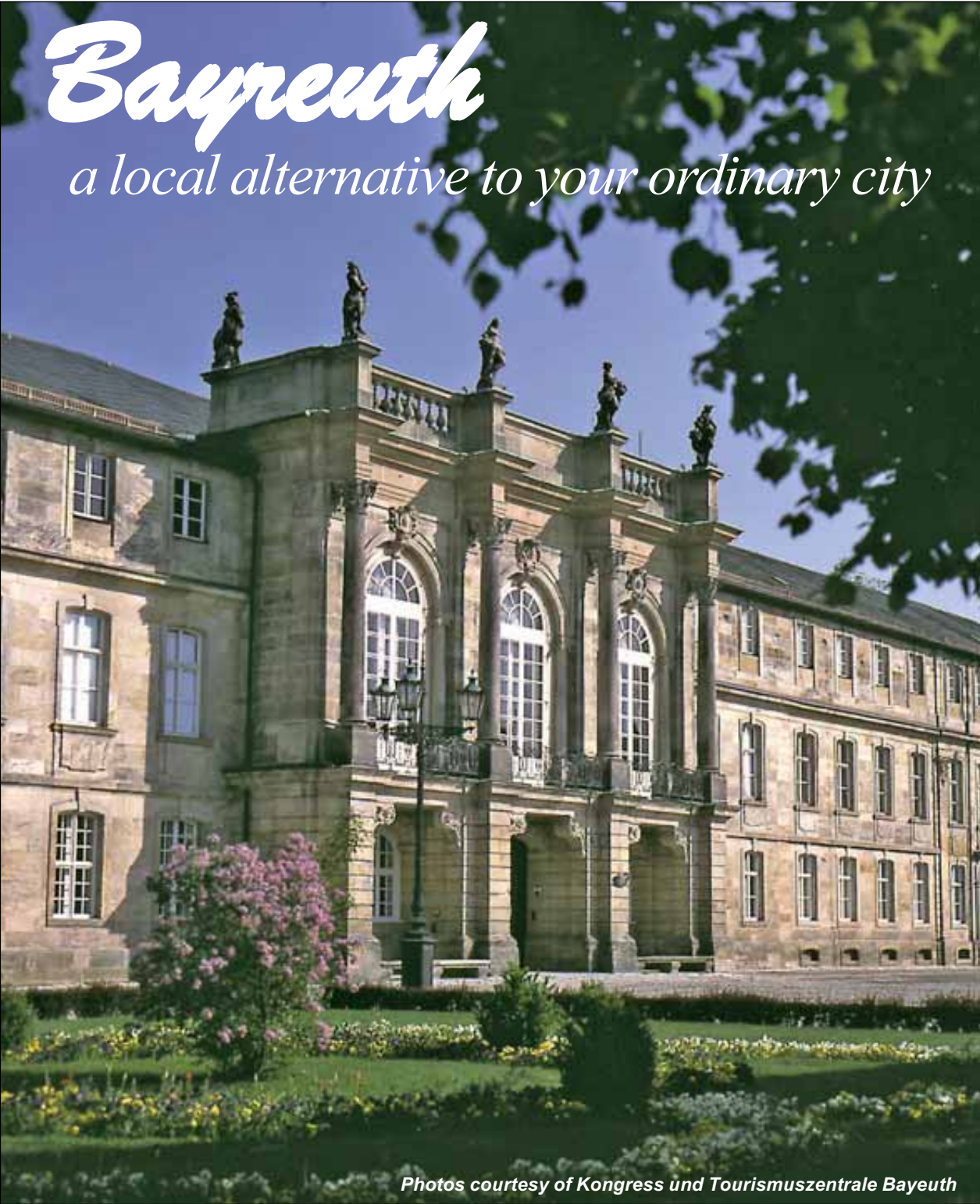
**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Mrs. Kane, School Nurse, 09641-83-9506

Mrs. Gavit, Registrar, 09641-83-9546







Photos courtesy of Kongress und Tourismuszentrale Bayreuth

by **BILYANA ATOVA**  
Staff writer

World renowned for its annual Richard Wagner Festival, Bayreuth is closely associated with the famous German composer who took up residence there in 1872.

The city was established in 1231, and it has belonged to Bavaria since 1806. Bayreuth flourished during 17th and 18th century, and during the time of Margravine Wilhemmine, the sister of the Prussian King Frederick the Great.

Today, with a population of over 70,000, Bayreuth is the largest city in Upper Franconia.

The town is worth a visit for its historic and modern sights, museums, baroque and rococo architecture, thermal spas, and for its countless leisure possibilities. About a 40-minute drive from Grafenwoehr, Bayreuth is a wonderful city for wasting a lazy day, light shopping, or entertainment.

One of the most impressive



The Opera House is considered one of the finest theaters in Europe and the only authentic baroque theater in Germany.

sights in Bayreuth is the **Margravia Opera House** (Markgräfliches Opernhaus). Situated in downtown Bayreuth, the Opera House is considered one of the finest theaters in Europe and the only authentic baroque theater in Germany. Despite the heavy bombing during World War II that destroyed a third of Bayreuth, the theater remains in splendid original condition.

The Opera House was built in the 1740s by Joseph Saint-Pierre, and the interior was designed by one of the most famous families of theater architects, the Bolognese Guiseppe Galli Bibiena and his son Carlo.

Performances are offered year-round, but for those who are not interested in the musical entertainment, guided historic tours are offered daily.

Not far from the Opera House is the **New Palace** (Neues Schloss), an extremely well-preserved baroque palace that dates back to the 18th century. It was the residence of the Margraves—Margrave Friedrich and the Prussian Princess Wilhelmine.

Palace highlights include the Garden Rooms, the Cedar Room, the Music Room, and the famous Mirror Pieces cabinet. It is an excellent place for a walk, especially the area around the palace, which is quiet on Sundays.

Down the street from the palace, in front of the Stadthalle, visitors can enjoy lunch in a pizza parlor called Pizza Hansel, especially cozy in the summer because of its charming Biergarten where patrons can enjoy pizza cooked in a wood-burning oven.

The **Museum of Natural History** is situated a block or two away from the New Palace. You can't miss it; there is a huge dinosaur on the main street pointing toward it. The museum displays the history of life and the geology and mineralogy of Upper Franconia from the past 500 million years.

On the northeast side of the New Palace garden is Villa Wahnfried. Richard Wagner's former living quarters is today a **Richard Wagner Museum**.

Wagner's legacy is inseparably linked to Bayreuth, where he enjoyed his greatest artistic triumphs. His long time sponsor was the Bavarian King Ludwig II.

On display in the museum are pianos, furnishings, and manuscripts of the composer who is most well known for his operas Tristan and Isolde, and the Mastersingers of Nuremberg. In the garden of the Villa Wahnfried lies Wagner's tomb and that of his wife Cosima, the daughter of Franz Liszt.

Across the street from the Richard Wagner Museum, visitors can see the **Franz Liszt Museum**, a museum highlighting the life and works of the famous Hungarian pianist and composer who happened to also be Wagner's father-in-law.

The museum is interesting to visit, considering that today Liszt is believed to be one of the greatest pianist in history, despite the fact that no recordings of his playing exist.

After leaving the museum,



(At left) Bayreuth's New Palace dates back to the 18th century. (Above) A map of the city may prove useful to visitors in search of the city's most appealing attractions.

visitors can return to the pedestrian zone on Richard Wagner Strasse, where several stores offer an extensive selection of select European wine and chocolate. Clothing and a department store are also available.

On the corner of a small intersection of the pedestrian zone, there is a very cozy art café, which displays various modern oil paintings. It is an ideal location to stop and enjoy a cappuccino and sandwich.

For those who desire to pamper themselves, Bayreuth offers a thermal spa. It is located next to the 18-hole-golf-course and the Old Palace (Altes Schloss Eremitage), which was the pleasure palace outside of the city for the Margraves.

Its supposed healing waters makes Lohengrin Thermal Spa one of the country's top thermal spas.

One thing that many visitors from all over the world enjoy in Germany is the myriad of spring and summer festivals. Bayreuth is no exception. The city seems to have a life of its own with the almost continuous festivals and activities.

The most famous is the **Richard Wagner Festival**, also known as the **Bayreuth Festival**, which takes place in the Richard Wagner Opera House (Festpielhaus), north of Bayreuth on a hill.

Each July and August, the festival is held in the theater that

was designed by the composer and built specifically for Wagner's operas. The Festpielhaus is unique in its architecture and acoustics.

The festival began in 1876, and when the composer died in Venice, his wife Cosima took over. Today, about 60,000 people continue to enjoy the 30 performances annually. The event has consistently been sold-out since its 1876 inauguration. Currently, waiting lists for tickets can be as long as 10 years or more.

This year's festival is scheduled July 25 – Aug. 28.

**Bayreuth's annual Easter Festival** holds charity concerts for children suffering from cancer, and will take place Friday through April 15.

The festival highlights are its symphony concerts in the Margravia Opera House, but also include Jazz Nights, Festival Brass, and Chamber Music.

Other festivals that take place throughout the year are Mucisa Bayreuth in May, the Franconia Festival Week in May, the Bayreuth Piano Festival in July, and the Summer Night's Festival toward the end of July.

Whether you are a music lover or not, neighboring Bayreuth is an ideal location for a day trip and offers affordable entertainment, dining, and shopping.

For more information on the city, visit [www.bayreuth.de](http://www.bayreuth.de) and click on the British flag for English.



The Eule is situated in the Kirchgasse. It is one of Bayreuth's meeting places for artists. There are pictures of several famous musicians and composers on the walls, and the clock still shows the hour of Wagner's death.



# Local youth receive presidential honors

Story and photo by JIM HUGHES  
Staff writer

One of “Newsweek” magazine’s “15 People Who Make America Great” visited Ansbach March 28 to give recognition to six middle schoolers who helped to make the community a better place.

Roxanne Spillet, president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, gave out Presidential Volunteer Service awards signed by President George Bush to six Ansbach Torch Club members for their efforts in 2006.

Derek Hyde, USAG Ansbach school liaison officer, let the students know from the beginning how big the awards were.

“We have an important visitor here today—she’s one of the 15 people who make America great and she’s here to honor six of the students we have here who make Ansbach great,” he said.

The six honorees are all members of Youth Services’ and BGCA’s Torch Club. They were: Brittany Learn, Andrew Ahearn, Kristen Bowen, DeMar Flake, Gregory Mariscal, and Kristy Reynolds.

Flake, a 12-year-old sixth grader, said he appreciated the recognition.

“Being in the Torch Club is a lot of fun,” he said. “We get to go on trips, help people and have a lot of fun. I’m pretty proud of myself for what I did. It was definitely worth the effort.”

The efforts of Flake and the other five members included collecting money for local animal shelters after learning how many pets

were left behind by the American drawdown, preparing and delivering Thanksgiving meals with all the trimmings to Securitas guards, helping out at Illesheim’s Main Street Christmas, and handing out candy and running carnival games at Trunk or Treat on Halloween.

Spillet also made her trip a fact-finding one by meeting with local commanders, Soldiers, spouses and teens to ensure the BGCA’s partnership is doing all it can to help today’s military families.

“I was in Germany three years ago on the same kind of trip, and things have changed in a fairly dramatic way since then,” she said. “I want to make sure the BGCA is as knowledgeable as it can be on what is going on in the lives of our kids and their families, and that we’re doing everything we can to support them.”

Spillet got what she wanted at meetings in the Yellow Ribbon Room and teen center, and also at lunch at the Katterbach Dining

Facility.

“I understand the challenges that military families face in a more personal way now,” she said. “When you put a human face on things they become much more real. This visit will help me when I talk to our board, our donors and our partners about how we all can support the military better.”

She added that the trip has generated numerous ideas she intends to follow up on within her organization.

Highlights of the suggestions from community Soldiers, spouses and teens included: more visits by sports stars, celebrities, and motivational speakers; a BGCA version of the hit Web site MySpace for a safer Web



Col. George Hamontree, 12<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade deputy commander, explains the workings of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter to Roxanne Spillet, president of the Boys and Girls Club of America, during her visit March 28.

environment for children; and a program to help children find BGCA facilities when they move.

“Every time I visit military posts, I’m impressed with the character of the people—they’re very special,” Spillet said. “They all do so much for our country and I always visit with a great sense of gratitude along with a sense of responsibility.”

Military youth services of all of the branches and the BGCA have partnered together since

1995 to provide military youth a consistent environment to make all of their transitions a little easier.

“We’re very proud of our affiliation with the military,” Spillet said. “I think it makes it easier for kids to integrate into new communities and feel like there is some continuity in their lives—to help them be more comfortable in a strange place. I’m seeing the real partnerships in play here.”

# 12<sup>th</sup> CAB returns to European roots at V Corps



Courtesy photo  
Col. Timothy Edens salutes during the March 20 ceremony.

by Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE  
12th Combat Aviation Brigade

The 12th Combat Aviation Brigade became a direct asset of V Corps after a command and control transition ceremony on Katterbach March 20.

The ceremony commemorated 12th CAB’s time as a part of the 1st Armored Division, as well as defined its unique new role as a brigade working directly for a Corps-separate asset.

“Nothing will change for 12th CAB personnel as far as where they work,” said Col. Timothy J. Edens, commander of the unit. “What it does mean is that the V Corps commander, Lt. Gen. James D. Thurman, will now oversee the rest of the preparation for us to go to combat.”

V Corps’ involvement in that preparation for this summer’s Iraq

deployment includes the integration of recently gained personnel and equipment in the 12th CAB.

Last summer, more than 600 Soldiers and families moved from other communities around Germany to help form the units the CAB is comprised of today.

This will not be the first time the CAB has worked directly for V Corps.

In 1979, then the 12th Aviation Group deployed from the U.S. to Wiesbaden, Germany, to provide command and control of aviation units throughout the V Corps area of operation.

In August, 1990, the Brigade left V Corps, deploying to Southwest Asia in support of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Since then, the CAB has endured a major growth-spurt in the number of units and personnel under its

wings.

Today’s 12<sup>th</sup> CAB consists of more than 3,800 personnel serving at units in Germany, Belgium, and Italy.

Yet through all the transformation, change and preparation for the deployment to Iraq, the dedication of the Soldiers is the one thing that has remained constant, Edens said.

The brigade has already deployed twice in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Most recently, in 2005, Soldiers of the CAB deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During this deployment, they flew more than 52,000 hours, transported 105,000 personnel, and moved more than 25 million pounds of cargo.

They also aided Pakistan by supporting earthquake and humanitarian relief efforts.

The CAB’s focus on mission accomplishment was vital to keeping track of personnel and equipment while conducting multiple operations in different areas, said Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson, Jr., the commander of 1st AD.

“I can speak personally of the times in which (the brigade) tamed ‘Old Ironsides’ in your dedication to duty, your standards and the competency of each Soldier that is so dominant in this organization,” said Robinson. “Now we have marked yet another milestone in the illustrious history of the 12th CAB.”

The achievement of this milestone allows the CAB’s European roots to turn full circle.

“We are honored to once again join V Corps, and we are looking forward to be providing the Wings of Victory to the Victory Corps,” Edens said.

# Garrison honors civilian employees

by RONALD TOLAND  
Staff writer

Installation Management Command-Europe and USAG Ansbach honored more than 70 employees for their years of loyal service during a longevity ceremony March 23.

The ceremony on Bismarck Kaserne honored U.S. government workers and local national employees for 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service respectively.

Lt. Col. Tammy McKenna, USAG Ansbach commander, along with Ansbach Lord Mayor Ralf Felber and Governmental Director of the Middle Franconian Government Dr. Thomas Bauer handed out certificates and pins honoring each of the employees.

“You have given your very best in order for this U.S. Army garrison to fulfill its very important mission of providing support and you have done so for many years,” she said. “You have done your job well, as documented by the many awards this community has received over the years.”

“You have displayed loyalty, dedication, endurance, and all this in spite of drawdowns, reorganizations, and restructuring,” McKenna added. “In spite of turbulent times, you have displayed professionalism and enthusiasm and I ask that you to

continue to do.”

Ansbach’s lord mayor also addressed the employees, and added that the city appreciates the garrison’s presence as one of the largest employers in the area and said the city will do all it can to support Army families while Soldiers are deployed.

Gerhard Rakonitsch, a directorate of public works customer service representative honored for 35 years of service, said he enjoys working for the Army.

“It is a good job, a good place to work, free training, and all in a smoke-free environment,” he said, adding some advice for workers in the early stages of their careers with the Army. “Deal with your co-workers and make a good team. Teamwork is the most important.”

Donna Bond, Army Community Service director, who was recognized for 25 years of service, gave out some advice of her own.

“Stay flexible and look into different types of job requirements and try to complete those requirements so that you’re fully qualified for any job you want to apply for.”

The honorees:

**35 Years**—Gerhard Rakonitsch, Anna Stevens, Franz Notzon, Heinz Hauke, Maria Rita Geuther, Marianna Teubner, Sonja Moehring and Ludwig Siebert.

**30 Years**—Rudolf Schwarz, Helga Boucher, Rudolf Ferder, Peter Prause, Horst Heier, Friedrich Kaefer, Dieter Groetsch, Walter Enser, Herbert Otta, Manfred Raab, Brigitte Ball, Reiner Groetsch, Peter Siebert, Dieter Woerrlein, Fritz Blumenstock, Klaus Reinhardt, Alfred Witt, Wilhelm Horneber, Joseph Gillich, Anna Psaila, Bernd Rosenkranz, Erich Tanzer, Madelyn P. Washington, Karl Heinz Hessenauer and Friedrich Scheuerpflug.

**25 Years**—Artur Dehner, Wilhelm Kaiser, Annemarie Reiner, Dieter Remmel, Georg Gukenberger, Frank Majerek, Georg Heidenreich, Walter Mueller, Ellen Gude, Peter Thurn, Rainer Bock, Rudolf Foerster, Bernd Schroeckseis, Harald Hanitzsch, Franz Geubig, Mehmet Ediz, Micheal Guenther, Elvira Adams, Stefan Mangold, Juergen Niedermeyer, Willi Poellot, Erika Truman, Wolfgang Schmidt, Kahsai Berhane, Thomas Doenhoefer, Donna Bond, Alexandra Gardner, Charles Grandison, Rebecca Harris, Albert Turner and Randy Osterhout.

**20 Years**—Heinz Meschter, Jurgen Huber, Peter Hans Stoehr, Leonidas Doulgerakis, Ingrid Stewart, Sandor Kiss, Erwin Meiszus, Ralph Wurm, George Seales, Dwight Waterman, Jesse Whitfield, Detlef Szillat and Veronika Pliske-Johnson.

## Don’t miss the 2007 bazaar!



Photo by Rhonda Podraza

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Darren Swan, B Troop of 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry, browses paintings at last year’s Illesheim Country Fair and Bazaar. The Illesheim Spouses and Civilians Club will host this year’s bazaar April 13-15 in the 412th Aviation Support Battalion hangar, Bldg. 6500, on Storck Barracks.

The bazaar is open 2-6 p.m. April 13; 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. April 14; and 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. April 15. Crafts, international vendors, food and fun will be on hand. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted. The event is open to all military ID cardholders. For more information, e-mail Tory Lamb at [tory.lamb@yahoo.com](mailto:tory.lamb@yahoo.com).



# What’s Happening

## Ansbach Briefs

### VAT relief offered for utilities

Community members living in Ansbach, Bad Windsheim, or Heilsbronn with electric, gas, and water bills in their own name can have the Value Added Tax adjusted off of their bills.

Go to the tax relief office in Bldg. 5845 on Bismarck Kaserne and fill out an application. If the utility bills are in their landlord’s name, then residents cannot get the tax relief.

For more information, call DSN 468-1780 or CIV 09802-83-1780.

### Easter services schedule

The Katterbach Chapel hosts special services throughout the Easter season. Tomorrow, there will be an Episcopal and Protestant service at 6 p.m.

For Good Friday, the chapel hosts a Catholic liturgy at 2 p.m.

Easter Sunday, there is a Catholic Mass at 9 a.m., a Protestant service at 10:30 a.m., an Episcopal service at 12:30 p.m., a Church of God in Christ service at 2 p.m. and a Hispanic Pentecostal service at 4 p.m.

For more information, call DSN 467-2785 or CIV 09802-832-785.

### Gates closed during non-violent protest Sunday

On Easter Sunday, the Katterbach and Bismarck entrances and exits off of B14 will be closed from approx 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Ansbach Alliance for Freedom, a sub-group of OffeneLinke Ansbach, is organizing a non-violent protest march to take place on this day.

The march will begin at three locations. The marchers will march to the grassy area in front of Bismarck Kaserne and west along Bundestrasse 14 (B14) to Soldiers Lake and then to Ansbach Schlossplatz where they will provide food, drinks, and present speeches to the marchers. The march will start at 10:30 a.m. in Sachsen Village, 9:45 a.m. in Wicklesgreuth Willage, and at 10:45 a.m. in Kuelbingen.

The march is expected to reach Schlossplatz at approximately 1:45 p.m. The organizers anticipate approximately 400-500 attendees, but other estimates remain closer to 1,000. There is potential for extreme leftists from Nuernberg to attend and attempt to disrupt the peaceful intention of the protest.

Please use the Katterbach High School Gate to go on and off post on Easter Sunday between 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Plan ahead and go to the PX or get gas after 1 p.m. on Easter Sunday or take care of errands the day before Easter.

### Kinderfest set April 28

Katterbach School Age Services hosts a Kinderfest in honor of the Month of the Military Child April 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bldg. 5515.

The event will include inflatable bouncers, mechanical bull riding, clowns, music, games, and food.

For more information, call Bryan Osewalt at DSN 467-4703 or CIV 09841-834-703.

### Tax centers offering services

Tax season is upon us. The deadline to file this year is April 16 with overseas taxpayers receiving a refund having until June 15.

The Katterbach and Illesheim Tax Assistance Centers are open to assist service members and DOD civilians in preparing their taxes.

Like previous years, appointments are not necessary to receive assistance.

When coming in to prepare their tax return, taxpayers should make sure they have everything needed.

This includes all W-2’s, 1099’s, interest statements, retirement statements, Social Security Cards, and banking deposit information. Taxpayers may bring in any other documents that they are unsure about.

The Katterbach and Illesheim Tax Assistance Centers will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.

For more information, call the center in Katterbach at DSN 467-2324 or CIV 09802-832-324, or in Illesheim at DSN 467-4511 or CIV 09841-83-4511.

### Job search workshop slated

The Army Career and Alumni Program hosts a job search workshop April 17-18, a Veterans Affairs benefits

briefing April 12, a separation brief April 17, and resume writing labs Monday and 30.

For times, locations and to sign up, call the ACAP staff at DSN 467-3312 or CIV 09802-833-312.

### Join spouses, civilian club

The Ansbach Spouses and Civilians Club is an all-ranks club for spouses and civilians in the Ansbach military community.

All officers, enlisted and civilian personnel, active and retired, and their spouses are invited to join the ASCC for fun, friendship, and participation in social, welfare, recreational, and cultural activities within the community.

The cost of ASCC membership has been decreased to \$10 for the remainder of the 2006-2007 membership year.

To join, visit the Thrift Shop or e-mail [roachmom3@iwon.com](mailto:roachmom3@iwon.com).

### Prepare for the job market

The Overseas Spouse Education Assistance program helps with the costs of post secondary undergraduate level education and vocational training to prepare Army spouses for the job market.

To be eligible, you must be the spouse of an active duty Army soldier and reside with the Soldier at the assigned command. For academic year 2005-2007 applications will be accepted at <http://www.aerhq.org>. The deadline is April 30.

For more info, call Sarah Tipple, CIV 09802-832-064 or DSN 467-2064.

### Get duty station info at ACS

Army Community Service has packages of information on duty stations people might get assigned to.

If you receive orders to a new station, check out the packages at ACS. They include information on schools, child care services, home buying, rentals, crime rates, job climates, weather and more. For more, call DSN 467-2883 or CIV 09802-832-883.

### Scholarships available

The Ansbach Spouses and Civilians Club works to raise funds to benefit the USAG Ansbach community through grants to organizations and programs in need of support within the community.

The welfare fund also allows ASCC to grant academic and vocational scholarships to deserving students and spouses in the USAG Ansbach community. Scholarships are available for qualifying students graduating from Ansbach High School, dependent children attending an accredited university or vocational school whose sponsor is currently stationed in Ansbach, or spouses registered with an accredited university.

No awards will be given directly to the recipient—all scholarship awards will be paid directly to the college or vocational school by ASCC upon registration confirmation. Applications are due by May 1. A total of \$6,500 will be awarded in scholarships this year.

To receive an application or for more info, call or e-mail CIV 09802-832-883 / [sarah.tipple@us.army.mil](mailto:sarah.tipple@us.army.mil).

### Finance Office consolidating operations due to deployment

Ansbach’s finance office, Bravo Detachment of the 39<sup>th</sup> Finance Battalion, will deploy this summer.

While continuing to provide top-notch service to the community, the unit has to consolidate some of its operations.

The finance offices in Katterbach and Illesheim will close for training from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays.

Finance will continue to accept travel vouchers and handle finance emergencies on a case-by-case basis. The unit will close the Illesheim finance office and the cashier cage on Katterbach April 26. It will provide all finance support from the main office on Katterbach in Bldg. 5818. The bank, credit union, and PX will continue to cash checks and provide foreign currency.

Military retirees can sign up for the International Direct Deposit Program offered by DFAS that will enable their retirement pay to be electronically transferred to a U.S. or German account. For more info, call DSN 467-3318 or CIV 09802-833-318.

### Enjoy ‘Underground’ fun nearly every night of week

The Underground Club on Bismarck Kaserne offers entertainment almost every night of the week.

Tuesdays are Bingo Night with interactive games and prizes starting at 7 p.m. Wednesdays are Games Night featuring music, cards, dominoes and free appetizers from 5-7 p.m.

Thursdays are Karaoke Bash at 7 p.m. Fridays are Country Music Night with a disc jockey starting at 7 p.m.

Saturdays are Dance Night featuring Salsa, Reggae, R&B and Hip-Hop and Meringue. For more on the Underground’s entertainment lineup, call DSN 467-2935 or CIV 09802-832-935.

## Bamberg Briefs

### Community closures

The Bamberg Commissary will be closed Easter Sunday. However, all AAFES shopping facilities in Bamberg will be open regular hours on Easter.

All shops on the economy will be closed on Friday and on Easter Monday. Make certain you plan accordingly.

### CYS Spring Break offers

Looking for something to do over spring break? Bamberg CYS is offering a variety of trips, tours, and activities for middle school/high school teens.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so sign up today.

For more information, contact Randy Lambert at DSN 469-8641 or e-mail [randy.lambert@eur.army.mil](mailto:randy.lambert@eur.army.mil).

### Beach trip slated Tuesday

Take a trip to Kristall Palm Beach on Tuesday. The group departs the YS Bldg. 7669 at 10 a.m. and will be joined by Hohenfels and Ansbach youth programs. The rip price is 15 Euro and includes a sack lunch (Bring extra euros for dinner.). Space is limited.

Sign-up by Friday to attend.

### April 11 Europa Park trip set for middle, high schoolers

Bamberg YS is offering a trip for middle/high school youth to Europa Park on April 11.

The bus will depart YS Bldg. 7669 at 4 a.m. and return at 11 p.m.

The trip price is \$25 and includes a breakfast snack and sack lunch. Bring extra Euros for additional purchases. Participants must be CYS registered.

Sign-up by Friday.

### Jump in driver’s seat during April 14 Go-Cart race trip

Don’t miss your opportunity to jump in the driver’s seat! Join the Bamberg YS trip to Stucks Kart/Event Center in Gollhofen (near Ansbach) for Go-Cart Racing April 14.

This event is open to CYS registered middle/high school youth for 30 Euro. Space is limited. Sign up by April 12.

### Bamberg Community Chapel schedule

■ Tomorrow: Holy Thursday (Lord’s Supper Service) at 5:30 p.m.

■ Friday: Good Friday (Veneration

of the Cross) at 3 p.m.

■ Saturday: Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) at 7 p.m.

■ Sunday: Easter Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.

### Sunday Services

■ Friday: Lutheran (last service) at 6 p.m.

■ Sunday: Protestant at 11 a.m.

■ Sunday: Free Gospel (at Preston Hall) at 11 a.m.

■ Sunday: Church of God In Christ at 12:45 p.m.

### Easter bunny photos offered

Hop along to the Community Activities Center, Bldg. 7047 Sunday to have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

The Portrait Studio will be taking pictures from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., on a walk-in basis: \$6 for one picture, \$10 for two pictures, or inquire about the “Special Easter Package”. For more information, call DSN 469-8659.

### Dont miss Easter bowling

Grab your bonnets, baskets, and bowling balls and head to the Bamberg Birchview Bowling Center, Bldg. 7690 on Easter Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kids bowl for \$0.75 per game. Call DSN 469-7722 for more information.

### Easter brunch set at Warner

Bamberg Warner Club is offering an Easter Sunday Brunch with an egg hunt for kids under 14 on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$8.50 per adult, \$5 per child (under 12) or \$25 for families (two adults, two kids under 12).

Reservations are recommended. Register in advance by calling DSN 469-7596.

### Don’t miss spring registration

Bamberg Elementary School Registration packets for the 2007/08 school year will be sent home with students on April 16.

Registration is required for all new (including Sure Start and Kindergarten) and returning students.

Spring registration dates are April 17-20 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed for lunch 1 – 2 p.m.) Registration personnel from the Middle School/ High School will be at BES April 19 to register families with children in both schools.

For returning students, please make certain we have current orders on file before registering.

Parents are welcome to call to verify at CIV 0951-300-7616.

### Enjoy Family Fun April 19

Mark your calendars for Bamberg elementary school’s Family Fun Night April 19 from 5:30 – 7 p.m.

It’s a night of games for the entire family.

### BES April newsletter online

The April edition of the Bamberg Elementary School newsletter is available online at [www.bamberg.eu.dodea.edu](http://www.bamberg.eu.dodea.edu).

A copy may be picked up at the school.

## Schweinfurt Briefs

### Bowling championship set

Sign up to participate in the IMCOM -E Army Bowling Championships by April 11 at the Kessler Bowling Center. The tournament runs April 18–20.

Call DSN 354-6332 / CIV 09721-96-6332 for information.

### Family fun run and egg hunt

Come out to the April Fool’s family fun run at Kessler Fitness Center Saturday at 9 a.m. An egg hunt for children will take place once all the kids cross the finish line. Adults run 10 kilometers and children over 6 years old run two, three, or five kilometers. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Trophies will be awarded to first and second place winners in each age category. Call DSN 354-6735 or CIV 09721-96-6735 for info.

### Egg hunt set for Friday

Hunt for eggs at the Community Activities Center on Leighton Barracks tomorrow at 6 p.m. Also enjoy free snacks, candy, and photos with the Easter Bunny! For details, call DSN 350-6305 or CIV 0931-889-6305.

### Get in shape with aerobathon

Spring into fitness at Leighton Fitness Center’s aerobathon April 14 at 10 a.m. Take part in Pilates, yoga, kickboxing, spinning, and more. All participants receive free T-shirts, water, and healthy snacks. Call DSN 350-6115/ 7378 or CIV 0931-889-6115/7378.

### Parents Night Out respite care sign-up begins Monday

Sign-ups begin Monday for Parents Night Out respite care April 20, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. in Leighton and Schweinfurt.

Children will be cared for at no cost to families. It is open to all families with children ages 6 weeks to fifth grade. Children must be registered with CYS. Call DSN 354-6517 or 350-7762.

### Visit Amsterdam flower parade with USO April 20-22

Travel with the Schweinfurt USO to Amsterdam for the flower parade April 20-22. The trip costs \$105 for adults and \$100 for children. Call DSN 354-6711, CIV 09721-96-6711.


### Learn more about autism

Attend the Autism panel discussion at the Abrams Entertainment Center April 11 at 1 p.m. Child care is available.

Find out more about autism by listening to the experts. Call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933 for info.

### Kessler open for Easter bowling

Hit the lanes at the Kessler Bowling Center Sunday and join in an old fashioned Easter egg hunt. Call DSN 354-6332 or CIV 09721-83391 for more information.



## U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

Seek diligently to discover the truth, deterred neither by fear nor prejudice

Contact your local CID Office or visit [www.cid.army.mil](http://www.cid.army.mil)

### Qualifications

- Be an E-5 or below
- Branch Immaterial
- Be a US Citizen
- GT score of 110 or higher
- Have 60 college credit hours
- No court martial convictions
- Internships available

## Become A CID Special Agent

We are seeking qualified Soldiers to become highly trained special agents. If you are motivated and ready for the challenge, we want you on our team!

### Points of Contact

Hanau CID	DSN: 323-2863
Wiesbaden CID	DSN: 337-6554
Baumholder CID	DSN: 486-8021
Kaiserslautern CID	DSN: 493-2069
Mannheim CID	DSN: 386-3606
Netherlands CID	DSN: 364-6162
Darmstadt CID	DSN: 349-6130





# Community gathers to honor friend

by **SANDRA WILSON**  
*USAG Schweinfurt PAO*

Staff Sgt. Karl Sotopinedo was carrying out his duties Feb. 27 when he was attacked by small arms fire.

On March 21, the Schweinfurt community gathered for a memorial ceremony in honor of him. It was a time of remembering Sotopinedo's love for serving with the military and his friendship with his comrades.

Sotopinedo was only 5 years old when first inspired to become an American Soldier. As a child, he lived in Panama while Operation Just Cause unfolded. From a hiding place in the jungle, he saw U.S. Soldiers sneak by and paratroopers rain from the sky.

"The little boy from the streets of Panama grew up to be a big U.S. Soldier. In fact, he was the biggest Soldier in Alpha Company," said Chaplain (Capt.) Seth George as he

spoke of Sotopinedo during the memorial ceremony in Iraq.

"He chose to use his adult life to fight for the freedom from which he benefited as a child. He chose to fight for the freedom of other children who stand in streets in places like Iraq and Afghanistan—for kids whose futures appear bleak due to the oppression of dictators and terrorists," George said.

Many people remembered Sotopinedo's friendship. He was a friend to all, said Lt. Col. George Glaze, commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup>



Sotopinedo

Infantry Regiment. Glaze used words like confidence, candor, and cool under pressure, when speaking about Sotopinedo.

"If a picture says a thousand words, then that smile says a million," Glaze said.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Raymond Buchan, from Bravo Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Ramadi, remembered Sotopinedo as outstanding soldier.

"If I had to take only one Soldier into combat it would be him, and I know that in that four man stack he would have my back along with whoever he was serving with," he said.

Not only did Sotopinedo's caring friendship permeate those around him, but his humorous side also provided encouragement.

"Few people are afforded the rare opportunity to experience such dear

friends that touch your life in such a special way as him," said members of Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiment, in a group statement celebrating Sotopinedos life.

Sotopinedo was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He is survived by his wife Patricia Leslie Abrego Arosemena of Panama and his mother Graciela Isabel Pinedo Chen of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"We will always carry the memories in our hearts... For some it was his awesome physical strength or his dedication and pride to serve in the United States Army," said Capt. Brian Hartman, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry. "For others it was the laughter we found in his stories of being a cheerleader in college or wearing his pink shirt to the clubs."



Renovations are expected to enhance customer service at the IN/OUT processing facility.

## Renovations for IOP Center underway

Story and photo by **MARK HEETER**  
*USAG Schweinfurt PAO*

What do you have if you take 27,285 square feet and combine them with little cubes of paper cut out and stuck onto the floor plan? You have the garrison commander devising his plan to improve the in-and-out processing center as it prepares to move its new home.

"I did a bunch of cubicle research, then I cut them out," said Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander. "Every cubicle in here is going to be manager-sized, in accordance with the standard cubicle office space that most organizations go with."

What began as a deployment center for the highly active and deployed units in the Schweinfurt community has turned into a project that is just about halfway complete and will consolidate all the IOP functions.

"The first time you come into a community, you need to be welcomed by a world-class entity, shop, and that's the intent of this place," Haager said, following a walk with his staff through Bldg. 40 on Conn Barracks.

The center will give Soldiers and their families one-stop shopping, as Haager called it, that will include the ID card and passport sections, personnel, finance, and likely a medical and dental screening area. The idea is to mirror the centers some of the larger CONUS posts have.

Referring to the Personnel Services Delivery Redesign initiative at the Installation Management Command, Haager said the new building's intent meets the goal.

"We have a quality service now, but we're improving it and it's going to ease the Soldiers' transition into and out of the community," said John McIntyre, the USAG Schweinfurt director of Human Resources who will oversee several of the center's tenant units.

"One, our troopers deserve it and, two, this is good for our community," Haager said.

As construction crews continue to hammer out the details over the next few months, Haager instructed the support units to report their needs to him, and he will accommodate them where possible.

"We're being creative with how we're executing this. This is a phased operation," he said, explaining that phase one is the middle floor, which has more square footage alone than all of Bldg. 215.

"Bldg. 215 wasn't meeting the needs," said McIntyre. "We weren't serving the Soldiers and families."

The building renovation is expected to be complete in June or July.

# Schweinfurt bids farewell to 'quiet' warriors

Story and photo by **MARK HEETER**  
*USAG Schweinfurt PAO*

One was called quiet. The other was referred to as under the radar.

"They shared a quiet strength, a confidence, a tranquility, even in the face of combat," said Ch (Col.) James Brown, remembering Spc. Alberto Garcia Jr. and Spc. Marioe Guerrero during the memorial service honoring the fallen Dagger Brigade Soldiers at the Ledward Chapel

March 27.

"They were both described as quiet professionals who were liked by everyone in their unit and were devoted to their families," Brown said.

Garcia, from Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, "Blue Spaders," was killed by an improvised exploding device while on combat patrol east of Baghdad March 13.

Guerrero, from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, "Vanguards,"

was killed by an IED in Baghdad March 17.

Staff Sgt. Shawn Busch read the remarks that Garcia's squad leader, Sgt. Jacob Richardson, gave at an earlier memorial service in Iraq.

"He was a Soldier that made an NCO's job a little easier. Alberto loved the physical part of being a Soldier," he said.

"He was a fast learner who enjoyed learning as much as he could," said Richardson, who taught Garcia a few chords on his relatively new hobby, playing the guitar.

"For a beginner, he played extremely well," said Richardson.

Following each mission, Garcia would always take care of his equipment in preparation for the next, said Capt. Cecil Strickland, whose earlier remarks were conveyed by Capt. Jacob White.

"And when he squared away his equipment, he would go to the gym and square away his body, even if it was 3 a.m.," Strickland said.

Guerrero was remembered by his comrades as a Soldier who could "light up a room" when he came in.

"He was a dear friend, he was a loving husband, he was an honorable son to his parents, and to his fellow Soldiers a brother," said Capt. Robbie

Johnson in remarks presented by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Phillip Robertson.

"We can only hope that we find ourselves worthy of a friend like Marioe," said Johnson.

According to Capt. Rickey Torres, who read the remarks of Lt. Col. George Glaze, Task Force Vanguard commander, Guerrero was "doing what he loved—leading the way."

Garcia is survived by his mother, Maria Alverado, and sisters Veronica Downs and Mercedes Nawrot.

Guerrero is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and mother, Cheryl Lynn Martinez.



Guerrero



Garcia



The honor guard stands at attention as Spc. George Weber plays Taps during the memorial ceremony.

## Harvey Barracks shuts gates one last time March 29

by **SCOTT ROUCH**  
*USAG Schweinfurt PAO*

The American presence in Kitzingen came to an official close March 29.

Harvey Barracks was signed over to the German government after representatives from both sides toured the facility one last time and one day after a similar procedure took place at Kitzingen's Larson Barracks.

"I worked here for 25 years, that's why there are tears in my eyes," said Michael Gunther from the Europe Region Transformation Group (Nord Bayern) (Provisional) Directorate of Public Works.

Gunther, along with Hans Wirth, a real estate property specialist for the ETG, chained and padlocked the gate after the final vehicle exited the installation just past noon.

Gregor Neeb, a German real estate

property specialist based out of Wuerzburg, previously worked for 14 years with the U.S. Army and has been a part of 16 installation closures.

"The buildings are in good shape, it's a shame there's no need right now for these facilities," he said from Harvey's former Centre Court.

All that is left is for the Germans to pay the tab for the installations. ETG DPW chief Steve Donnelly

presented German representatives a bill for \$ 96 million for Harvey Barracks and \$67 million for Larson Barracks.

Donnelly explained the bills were for years of work over and above normal things.

He said the government would not expect a check but that the funds would be diverted to things such as the buildup in Grafenwoehr.

## Access tuition assistance 24/7 at GoArmyEd Web site

by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**  
*USAG Schweinfurt PAO*

Effective May 1, 2006, the Army implemented GoArmyEd, a system for active duty Army Soldiers to access their tuition assistance benefits 24 hours a day.

"GoArmyEd is the Army's new way of processing TA funds," said Gina Lampe, education services specialist for USAG Schweinfurt.

The new system is a Web portal that allows Soldiers to access their tuition assistance yearly balances, register for classes through participating colleges or universities, and track their education history.

The automated system has simplified the TA process in many ways.

"It doesn't take but five minutes to register," said Jamie Reilly, education services officer in Schweinfurt.

Under the old system, Soldiers had

to submit a Statement of Understanding, signed by their commander, allowing them to use their TA every time they registered for a class.

GoArmyEd eliminates that repetitive hassle by requiring a SOU only once per year.

"It's all for the benefit of the Soldier ... The system reminds the Soldier 90 days before the SOU expires. There are several such alerts built into the system," Lampe said.

Once set up in GoArmyEd, much of the Soldier's educational needs can be handled through the portal.

The initial set-up, however, will require the assistance of the Soldier's local Education Center.

"Soldiers complete a one page application online, and can print out their SOU to have it signed. Then they can come see us and complete activation," Lampe said.

Part of the activation includes

choosing a home college and degree plan, but Lampe stressed that these choices can be changed at a future date, if the Soldier changes his mind.

"If you're undecided, then we can enroll you in a two-year general education program," Reilly added.

Such two year degrees cover the core curriculum without committing to a specific discipline, and are highly transferable.

"Not all Soldiers inquire about education until they need to. It's easier to communicate with the Soldier now, versus later when he is downrange," Lampe said.

Many deployed Soldiers find that they have time to study while downrange, but aren't set up with GoArmyEd.

Establishing a GoArmyEd account without the benefit of a local Education Center can be difficult, involving a lot of paperwork, faxes, and phone calls.

If the account is already activated,

then registering for classes is easy and can be done online.

"They need a GoArmyEd account to pursue any kind of education goals. You don't have to use it, but having it available when you do want it will make furthering your education much easier," Lampe said.

Lampe plans to be on hand at the upcoming pre-deployment briefings to encourage enrollment, but Soldiers need not wait in order to start the process.

Simply log on to [www.GoArmyEd.com](http://www.GoArmyEd.com), click on "new users," and fill out the application. There is even a downloadable SOU to give to your commander.

"Then they can come see us, and we can counsel them on programs," Lampe said.

For more information, contact your local education center.

In the USAG Schweinfurt, call DSN 354-6383 or CIV 09721-96-6383.







# Wrestlers offer free tickets to troops

by **CARMEN L. GLEASON**  
*American Forces Press Service*

Servicemembers can take advantage of the generosity of professional wrestlers by getting free admittance into World Wrestling Entertainment events worldwide.

Members of the military can receive a free ticket to WWE events, based on availability and excluding WrestleMania events, when they provide valid identification to the box office on performance day.

“As a company, we feel that if it wasn’t for troops laying their lives on the line we couldn’t do what we do every day here in the states,” said Sue Aitchison, senior manager for community relations.

WWE became a corporate partner with the Defense Department’s America Supports You program in May 2005. America Supports You

connects the nation’s support of the troops directly to servicemembers and their families.

World Wrestling Entertainment has been a long-time supporter of the armed forces by visiting the wounded in military hospitals overseas and at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here and the National Naval Medical Center, in Bethesda, Md.

For the past three years, WWE superstars have traveled to Iraq to tape a televised holiday special that was broadcast to Americans and troops around the globe. They also have sent millions of dollars worth of T-shirts, videos, promotional items, magazines and compact discs to military personnel operating on the front lines.

“It is our philosophy that it doesn’t matter what one’s political preference is; we have to support these guys,” Aitchison said.



Photo courtesy of WWE  
**World Wrestling Entertainment superstar Triple H greets troops in Afghanistan during last year’s “Tribute to the Troops” tour.**

# New Center for the Intrepid uses sports activities as primary rehabilitation

by **ELAINE WILSON**  
*Army News Service*

With a one-of-a-kind virtual reality simulator and a sports program that could challenge even the most intense extreme sports fan, the Army’s new physical rehabilitation center offers patients “therapy disguised as fun,” said Col. John Shero, deputy chief of administration, Brooke Army Medical Center, at a March 8 facility tour.

The four-story, 65,000-square-foot Center for the Intrepid includes clinical, research and administrative space; a gait lab; a Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Environment, or CAREN; indoor running track; two-story climbing wall; and a prosthetic fabrication laboratory.

“The equipment and technology are without parallel anywhere in the world,” said Col. Mark Bagg, director, CFI, and chief of orthopedics, BAMC.

All of it is designed to help wounded warriors with severe extremity injuries, burns and amputations maximize their ability to live and work productively. The

custom equipment is also designed to ensure the wounded warriors have some fun along their road to recovery.

The Military Performance Lab, for instance, includes the CAREN, a 21-foot dome with a 300-degree screen that displays a variety of virtual realities. Patients stand on a moving platform that can sway like a speed boat on a choppy ocean or incline when taking a simulated hike through the woods.

City street simulations also help patients transition to the hustle of everyday life as they dodge fast walkers on crowded city streets. The state-of-the-art simulator is one of nine in the world and the only one in the United States.

The Firearms Training Simulator puts wounded warriors through a series of dangers, testing their ability to swiftly react and fire on threats. FATS not only trains their hand-eye coordination, but also keeps patients current with weapons systems common to the military.

“It feels great,” said Marine Staff Sgt. Alejandro Del Rio, who was trying

out the simulator for the first time. Del Rio was severely wounded in Iraq by a bomb blast. He lost both of his legs below the knee, sustained damage to his right arm and part of his left hand and forearm.

Despite the injuries, Del Rio fired with ease.

On the sports front, patients can work their way to the top of a 21-foot climbing tower or play volleyball in the six-lane pool. “The Flowrider,” which enables wounded warriors to “ride” the waves on a bodyboard, is used to improve balance, coordination and strength.

“It’s physically exerting, but you get this rush,” said Staff Sgt. William Corp, a below-the-knee amputee, who excelled at The Flowrider on his first try.

Much of CFI’s equipment is geared, not just toward rehabilitation, but research. The gait lab analyzes human motion, with an emphasis on walking. The information collected at the lab, as well as from the CAREN, can ultimately help physicians, physical therapists and prosthetists adjust their treatment plans and improve patient function.

“We’re learning at the same time the patients are getting therapy,” Bagg said.

The Center for the Intrepid was a



Photo by **Nelia Schrum**  
**Sgt. Antonio Autry checks out the weight-lifting equipment at the Center for the Intrepid.**

gift to the Army from Americans. More than 600,000 people donated \$50 million to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund to build the center, which opened with much fanfare in late January.

The facility, Bagg said, is a “dream come true.”

“It’s physically exerting, but you get this rush.”  
**Staff Sgt. William Corp**  
below-the-knee amputee

# U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Boxing Invitation Winners

Results of the boxing tournament held at Rose Barracks March 10:

Host Vilseck racked up 162 points with 41 boxers participating to win first place. Weisbaden placed second and Friedberg came in third.

**Women’s bouts**  
132 lbs.:  
**Leann Jastad**, Vilseck  
**Tianna Sewell**, Vilseck  
152 lbs.:  
**Christine Gritzke**, Vilseck

**Men’s bouts**  
125 lbs.:  
**Robert Wiess**, Vilseck  
132 lbs.:

**Philip Rice**, Vilseck  
141 lbs.:  
**Jacob Hasbrouck**, Friedberg  
**John Waters**, Vilseck  
**Jesus Lopez**, Vilseck  
152 lbs.:  
**James Carmona**, Vilseck  
**Christopher Collins**, Vilseck  
165 lbs.:  
**Alexander Bland**, Wiesbaden  
**Matthew Woodruff**, Vilseck  
**Carlos Lebron**, Vilseck  
**Ron Rivera**, Vilseck  
**Brian Baumgardner**, Vilseck  
178 lbs.:  
**Andrew Brayton**, Vilseck  
**Joshua Andress**, Vilseck  
201 lbs.:  
**Joel Cordell**, Vilseck  
**Rubin Green**, Vilseck  
+201 lbs.:  
**Montrice Brooks**, Vilseck

**Uncontested**  
Boxers, all from Vilseck, were unable to be matched.  
**Rachel Singratsomboune**  
**Sean Staggs**  
**Marco Askew**  
**Aaron Ibarra**  
**Jason Bell**  
**Dedrick Richardson**  
**Tyler Barnett**



Photos by **Adriane Foss**  
**Every boxer had to be cleared by a doctor after the match.**

**MVP**  
**Jacob Hasbrouck**, voted outstanding boxer of the tournament

The next boxing match was held March 31 in Baumholder at the Baumholder Hall of Championships Fitness Center.

# Women’s basketball ends season in fourth place

by **KATIE COWART**  
*Assistant editor*

The men’s and women’s unit basketball teams recently ended their season with a trip to the championship games in Wiesbaden March 15-18.

The women’s team from USAG-Grafenwoehr ended with a record of 1-7, earning them a fourth place finish in USAREUR, while the men’s team had a season record of 6-6.

All eight players from the women’s team will be returning next season, leaving Coach James Tiessen hopeful for another improved season.

“The women’s team was one of the most improved teams in USAREUR,” Tiessen said. “The final finish is not indicative of how well this team played and each team member should be proud of their accomplishment!”

The men’s team struggled a little bit more during the season, never being able to have all five starters at

the same game, due to training requirements.

All but three members of the men’s team will return next year, which will provide some much-needed continuity, according to Tiessen.

“After the first practice, it was quite apparent that this was a very special team and I hoped they would be able to meld into the great team they could become,” Tiessen said.

“I know this team’s season ended in disappointment but they too, should hold their heads high and the phrase ‘we’ll get ‘em next year!’ is already resonating,” he added.

Both Soldiers and civilians may play on the unit basketball teams. This season, the men’s team was made up entirely of Soldiers, but the women’s had several civilian players.

Try-out dates for next season have not been announced yet, but Tiessen looks forward to seeing a few new faces to add to his returning players.

“The women’s team was one of the most improved teams in USAREUR.”  
**Coach James Tiessen**  
USAG-Grafenwoehr basketball coach



# American Easter traditions stem from German customs, Christianity

by MARTINA BIAS  
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

It is always interesting to see how other cultures celebrate their holidays. While many traditions around Easter in Germany are similar to the ones you are used to from the U.S. (not a surprise since many of the customs we have in the US at Easter time were brought to our shores by German immigrants), there are also some that you might not be familiar with.

The story about the German Easter bunny is the following:

This cute and cuddly, but also very fast animal, colors and paints the eggs on the Saturday before Easter and hides them during the night in the front and back yards, as well as forests.

The first documentation of a rabbit delivering eggs was cited in 1678 by a professor from Heidelberg and is said to have evolved further in the Elsass, Pfalz and the upper Rhine Valley around that time.

The bunny represents the reawakening nature in spring. It also has religious meaning, as it represents the resurrection as the Byzantine symbol for Christ Jesus.

Interestingly, some regions in Germany gave the responsibility for the hiding of the eggs to other animals: in Thuringia the stork, in Westphalia the fox and in Switzerland the cuckoo bird.

The eggs are also tightly associated with Easter in Germanic tradition. Like the bunny, they are the Christian symbol for resurrection. For the believers it was also a given that they would not eat meat during the fasting period from Ash Wednesday till Easter.

Eggs were known as the “liquid meat” and boiled so they would keep longer. Natural ingredients that were boiled along with the eggs would color the shells different colors. Choosing to color the eggs a different color each time acted like “expiration dates” – telling the people what eggs had to be used



Courtesy photos

**The Easter bunny is as much a part of German Easter tradition as it is American tradition. Easter eggs were originally colored with natural ingredients to help remind people of their expiration date. Bonfires are set ablaze along the river Elbe the Saturday before Easter.**

first. Later the colors were given different meanings: red stood for the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, green for youth and innocence, orange for strength, stamina and aspirations. It appears this tradition also evolved from an old German custom of painting eggs with bright colors to represent the longer days of sunlight in the new season.

You can create colors using natural material such as beet juice for red, spinach leaves for green, elderberries for purple and red cabbage or blueberries for blue.

Many German churches still light special Easter candles. This tradition dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century after Christ.

The light symbolizes the resurrection and eternal life. As remembrance of Jesus pain and suffering on the cross and his wounds, the Easter candle is pierced with five nails (made

from wax). The flame of the Easter candle lights all the other candles in the church as well as all the little candles that are given out to all the visitors of the worship service. The Easter light is believed to protect from becoming needy and sick.

Here are some more unusual Easter traditions from Germany:

In the Alps, huge wheels fashioned from sticks are set afire and rolled from the top of the mountains into the valleys.

In the olden days, the alphabet was written down and cut up and served along with the “Good Friday egg” to all who started school that year.

During the night from Saturday to Easter, Easter bon fires are lit all along the river Elbe in Hamburg and boat tours are offered to allow tourists view them.

A fun activity for the kids is the “rolling of

the eggs” that is still practiced in some regions in eastern Germany. It originated in the belief that it would enhance the growth and bounty of the seeds planted in the fields and pastures if eggs were rolled over them. This tradition evolved and soon real obstacle courses for the (hard boiled) eggs were developed and races held.

In northern Germany the still practice the tradition of rolling the eggs down a grassy hill.

Another game that is a favorite around Easter is the “Eierlaufen” (egg walk). A hard boiled (or raw - if you are outside) egg is placed on a spoon. The players have to run as fast as they can with the outstretched arm holding the spoon and egg. To make it interesting, an obstacle course can be incorporated. The winner is the person who is the first to reach the goal with an unhurt egg.

Finally, I would like to share a favorite song for little kids about a bunny that I remember well from my childhood:

## Häschen in der Grube (Bunny in the Den)

*Häschen in der Grube (bunny in the den)  
Sass und schlief, (sat and slept)  
Sass und schließt. (sat and slept)  
Armes Häschen, bist du krank, (poor little bunny are you sick)  
Daß du nicht mehr hüpfen kannst? (so that you cannot hop anymore?)  
Häschen, hüpf! (bunny hop!)  
Häschen, hüpf! (bunny hop!)  
I know, these lyrics do not make a lot of sense, but it is nice to sing together and the kids love to hop like a bunny when you get to the end of the song.*

*Have you ever wondered why Germans do certain things? I welcome your questions and comments. E-mail me at [martina.bias@us.army.mil](mailto:martina.bias@us.army.mil), and I may be able to address your suggestions in a future column.*

# Eierlikoerkuchen proves a tasty Easter dessert

Recipe and photos by MARTINA BIAS  
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

Last Easter I shared the recipe for a luscious Eierlikoertorte with you, and this year I present another favorite baked good using the German specialty Eierlikoer (literally egg liquor).

This one is a classic with a pound-cake-like texture. It is extremely moist, and stays that way for several days.

To dress it up a little, you can vary the ingredients. You can add some ground nuts (Germans would use ground hazelnuts or ground almonds) or stir some chocolate sprinkles into the batter.

However you decide to prepare this favorite, dusted with confectionary sugar, it will be a family pleaser and is wonderful with a nice cup of coffee or hot chocolate.

Most Germans will purchase ready-made Eierlikoer in the store, but you can easily make it at home with the following recipe. Feel free to use the alcohol of your choice:

### Eierlikoer

5 egg yolks

1 cup confectionary sugar

2 tsp. vanilla extract

½ cup whipping cream

1 cup alcohol (for example whisky, rum, vodka or one of the many German schnapps like Himbeergeist, Kirschwasser or the French Calvados)

Beat egg yolks, sugar and vanilla until light and foamy. Slowly add whipping cream, continuing to stir. Finally, slowly stir in the alcohol.



Let mixture sit in the refrigerator for at least one day. Fill into clean bottles.

The Eierlikoer will keep in the refrigerator for about 4 weeks.

Yield: about 3 cups

*Extra tip: Most Germans will take great care to use only the freshest eggs and make sure that they know their origin well.*

Froehliche Ostern! (Happy Easter!)

### Eierlikoerkuchen

5 eggs

2 ½ cups confectionary sugar

1 tsp. vanilla

1 cup vegetable oil

1 cup Eierlikoer

¾ cup flour

1 cup corn starch

4 tsp. baking powder

non-stick-spray

confectionary sugar



**Eierlikoerkuchen hasa pound cake texture and is made with Eierlikoer (egg liquor). The moist dessert is a popular afternoon treat with coffee in Germany.**

Heat oven to 350 degrees and spray a bundt cake pan with non-stick-spray.

In a large bowl, cream eggs with confectionary sugar and vanilla.

Add oil and then Eierlikoer while continuing to mix.

Combine flour, starch and baking powder in another bowl and gradually add to egg mixture. The batter will be relatively liquid.

Pour the batter into the bundt cake pan (the cake will expand significantly). Bake for 50 - 60 minutes, or until cake tests done.

Let sit in cake pan for 10 minutes and then invert onto a wire rack to cool.

Just before serving, dust with confectionary sugar. This cake keeps best when wrapped in aluminum foil.

Yield: 16 – 20 servings

Try something different ! If you like to cook and would like an authentic German recipe, e-mail the Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist for a recipe.

Wondering how to recreate a delicious dish you ate in a village Gasthof or neighborhood cafe?

Let us know. We'd like to feature the recipe in a future issue.

Just e-mail us at [martina.bias@us.army.mil](mailto:martina.bias@us.army.mil). Guten Appetit!